

PLO prepares for disputed meeting

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) prepared Monday for a first and controversial meeting of its Executive Committee in the Gaza Strip, despite the refusal to attend of several members opposed to the self-rule deal. At least six members in Tunis and Amman have rejected Tuesday's scheduled session of the 18-strong committee in Gaza, amid warnings that Palestinian unity would be jeopardised. Seven members are already in the Strip but five more are required for a quorum. If 12 members fail to turn up, the committee would sit a day later with a quorum of nine, according to PLO rules. "We are keen on having everybody attend," said Samir Ghosheh, labour minister in the Palestinian National Authority and an Executive Committee member. Tuesday will also be a public holiday for independence day, marking the proclamation of a Palestinian state on Nov. 15, 1988. Mr. Ghosheh said invitations were sent out to all Executive Committee members, but he did not know exactly how many would attend. PLO leader Yasser Arafat had ensured all the formalities for their entry into Gaza had been carried out.

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Iraq notifies U.N. of recognition of Kuwait, but sanctions unchanged

Aziz hands over documents to Albright; biological weapon inspectors say gaps remain

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz on Monday handed over documents on Iraq's official recognition of Kuwait to U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright, who received them as president of the U.N. Security Council. Ms. Albright said, however, Security Council sanctions imposed against Iraq in 1990 will continue unchanged. Speaking to reporters after a 60-day review of the sanctions, which bar the export of Iraqi oil, she said: "We met, reviewed the sanctions regime and decided to continue it without change."

Earlier, Mr. Aziz told reporters: "I asked the president of the council to circulate these documents to the members of the council and we hope that the council will act in a positive manner to this important step on the part of Iraq."

The Iraqi Parliament and Revolutionary Command Council last Thursday recognised Kuwait as an independent state within U.N.-demarcated borders.

Ms. Albright, before meeting Mr. Aziz, told reporters: "I am looking forward to meeting Tariq Aziz as president of the Security Council and I am looking forward to his finally handing over a letter which recognises

Kuwait after all these long years of them promising to do that."

The documents included a decree signed by President Saddam Hussein as head of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council, a declaration by the Iraqi National Assembly and the edition of the national gazette in which they were published.

Iraqi recognition of Kuwait and its borders was a key condition for lifting the U.N. sanctions imposed on Baghdad after its invasion of the Gulf neighbour in August 1990.

Even before the Security Council began consultations on the Iraqi sanctions, a U.S. diplomat predicted they would be renewed for another six months with no statement by the council on Baghdad's decision to recognise Kuwait.

Mr. Aziz shook hands with Ms. Albright, handed over a folder with the documents and exchanged a few words. "It was a formal meeting. Its main purpose was to hand over the documents and a couple of minutes were enough," said Mr. Aziz.

"The council has imposed sanctions on Iraq for certain reasons and those reasons do not exist any more," he told reporters.

"From a legal and political

point of view the council should take the decision, the correct decision, as soon as possible to lift first the economic sanctions and then the other sanctions that have been imposed on Iraq," he said.

Russia and France have argued that the oil embargo on Iraq should be lifted after a six month testing period of a U.N. monitoring system to ensure Baghdad's long-term disarmament.

Following a Russian diplomatic initiative, President Saddam signed the decree Thursday officially recognising Kuwait, which Baghdad had claimed as its 19th province.

In the statement, Iraq declared it recognised Kuwaiti sovereignty, its territorial integrity and political independence. It recognised the borders delineated after the war by a U.N. commission, and pledged to respect their inviolability.

The United States, however, has led the opposition to lifting the sanctions — such as return of political prisoners, respect for human rights, the return of Kuwaiti property and payment of war reparations.

It highlighted Iraqi troop movements toward its southern border with Kuwait last month as evidence of Baghdad's bad faith.

The United States wants "to make clear to the world that recognition of Kuwait is only one piece of what has happened in the last 60 days," said James Rubin, Ms. Albright's spokesman.

"What has also happened in the last 60 days is that Iraq sent menacing troop movements toward Kuwait, thereby raising serious doubts about their serious intentions," he said.

A U.N. report said Sunday Iraq continues to commit serious human rights abuses. The report cited political assassination, repression of minorities and practices that "terrorise its civilian population."

Max Van der Sotel, special rapporteur for the U.N. Human Rights Commission, presented a list of recommendations in the report, including the deployment of U.N. observers in Iraq to monitor respect for human rights.

Diplomats said Mr. Van der Sotel's report could be used by countries, notably the United States and Britain, which contend that Iraq has still not done enough to justify a lifting of the sanctions.

Meanwhile a senior U.N. (Continued on page 7)



A convey of decorated vehicles embarks on a parade through Amman streets on Monday marking the birthday of His Majesty King Hussein (Petra photo)

Festivities mark King's birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanians danced in the streets of Amman, waving portraits of His Majesty King Hussein and chanting slogans praising the Monarch as they marked his 59th birthday Monday.

The streets were bedecked with Jordanian flags and the King's portraits.

In Amman, vehicles decorated with flowers and ornaments toured the capital's main streets. The parade, which was organised by the Greater Amman Municipality, ended at the Royal Palace.

Several ministries, government departments, companies, factories and charity societies participated in the parade.

The opening ceremony was attended by Labour Minister Khaleel Ghannam, President of the Amman Region Authority Fayez Al Khawashah, Port Corporation Director General Dureid Mahasneh and other officials.

Celebrations were also organised by people in various parts of Zarqa and Russeifa cities which were bedecked with Jordanian flags, the King's photos and banners expressing support for His Majesty.

These celebrations included national songs and the traditional dabkeh dances in addition to parades.

In Irbid, Culture Minister Jum'a Hamad attended the governorate's major celebration organised by the Irbid Culture Department at the municipal building, and inaugurated the Arab Cultural Centre, which was built by Al Tal family in memory of the late Jordanian poet Mustafa Wahbi Al Tal, known as Arar.

The celebrations included addresses by several officials and a representative of Al Tal family, lauding King Hussein's leadership.

It also included national songs and dances performed by folk troupes from Al Hiss and Howara clubs, Maath Ben Jubail School, Al Muhejer Jordanian folklore troupe and Al Ramtha national folklore troupe.

Mr. Hamad also opened a plastic art exhibition by the governorate's artists at Al Hashimiya Hall at the municipal building.

Also as part of the Kingdom's celebrations of the King's birthday, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali will Thursday lay the foundation stone for Al Karak Centre for Rehabilitation of the Hand-Armed.

(Continued on page 7)

PNA pursues Gaza crackdown

GAZA (Agencies) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) crackdown on Islamic Jihad militants in Gaza, launched after a suicide bombing that killed three Israeli officers, is likely to be long-term, officials from both groups said on Monday.

"I am sure this time is completely different than what has happened in the past," Freih Abu Medeen, in charge of justice for the self-rule administration, told Israeli army radio.

The PNA will do everything in its power to halt further bombings, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said in an interview published Monday, but he admitted they would go on.

"These attacks will go on for a certain time," Mr. Arafat told Israel's Yediot Aharanot newspaper.

"We will do everything to try to stop them from the means at our disposal. We will not allow the law to be broken," he said.

The attacks are "an attempt to ridicule the authority and the Palestinian people," said Arafat.

"We will not allow the peace process to blow up," said Mr. Arafat, adding that he was "optimistic, because we have committed ourselves

down the road of no-return."

Stepping up the crackdown, Palestinian police on Monday enforced a new ban on street protests and prevented a memorial march for a suicide bomber.

Police set up roadblocks, searched vehicles and turned away cars and buses carrying supporters of the Islamic Jihad faction.

Islamic Jihad cancelled the march because of low turnout.

However, police stayed away Monday from the wake for the bomber, Hisham Hamad, who rode a bicycle into an Israeli army checkpoint on Friday and set off the explosives on his body, killing himself and three Israeli officers.

Some 600 supporters gathered at Hamad's house on Monday and cheered when a man over a loudspeaker said: "Hisham, our beloved, your revenge will soon take place in Tel Aviv."

Meanwhile, a senior PNA official said Islamic Jihad's chief ideologue, Sheikh Abdullah Shami, was still on the run, dismissing earlier police reports that he was detained Monday.

Police arrested 20 more Islamic Jihad members during the night, bringing to 180

Christopher trip on hold — Peres

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has delayed his return to the Middle East awaiting a more detailed Syrian response to peace proposals, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Monday.

"The Syrians are very slow," Mr. Peres told reporters.

"The United States has reached the conclusion that the Syrian response (to proposals) is not sufficient. We need a much more detailed response."

Israeli officials had said Mr. Christopher intended to visit the region during November in a further attempt to bridge the gap with Syria.

Israel has offered to pull out from most of the Golan Heights over about four years and to negotiate a final withdrawal line in return for a peace treaty and full diplomatic and trade ties.

Mr. Christopher visited Israel and Syria at the end of October with President Bill Clinton who reported progress with Syria, but he refused to elaborate.

Mr. Peres went on: "The way they negotiate, not only the time they negotiate is counter-productive."

"You cannot negotiate just

on a professional level you must have a political level," he said referring to Israel's reported call for a meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and President Hafez Al Assad or at least ministerial-level talks.

Mr. Rabin said Friday that he needed at least another eight months to know if peace with Syria was possible.

"I can say they are even late by 15 years," Mr. Peres added saying Syria could have had all the Golan back years ago if they had negotiated at the same time as Egypt.

Syria could have got everything that (late President Anwar) Sadat did," Mr. Peres said.

In recent days, statements of Israeli leaders have suggested that Israel has switched more of its diplomatic attention away from the Syrian track and towards talks with the Palestinians about expanding autonomy in the West Bank.

Mr. Peres, however, rejected the idea that talks with the Syrians should be cut off or delayed until after Israel's next scheduled elections in November 1996.

"As long as we can negotiate, let's negotiate. Maybe (Continued on page 7)

Key Asian countries back U.S.-N. Korea nuclear deal

JAKARTA (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton secured pledges from China, Japan and South Korea here Monday for help implementing a landmark agreement to keep North Korea from being a nuclear threat.

Mr. Clinton met earlier with President Jiang Zemin of China, who also pledged to back implementation of the Oct. 21 Geneva agreement aimed at ridding North-East Asia of a perceived North Korean nuclear threat.

"They all said that they strongly supported the agreement and that they thought it was very important that we continue to work it through," the president said.

Chinese spokesman Chen Jian said Mr. Jiang was "pleased" with the Geneva agreement and hoped "all parties concerned will make efforts so that the code will be implemented adequately."

"In this process, China is willing to continue to play a constructive role," Mr. Jiang

met jointly later in the day with Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama of Japan and South Korean President Kim Young-Sam to discuss the North Korea issue.

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said.

China, a stalwart ally of Pyongyang during the reign of Kim Il-Sung that ended with the North Korean leader's death on July 8, is poised to play a major role in bringing the accord to fruition, analysts say.

While it is unlikely to provide any dollars towards the deal, and earlier this year stood against U.S. strong-arm tactics against its ally, China is capable of exerting both political and economic pressure on Pyongyang.

On another front, President Clinton said he had been assured by the Indonesian government there would be no retribution against East Timorese demonstrators who had occupied U.S. embassy grounds in Jakarta.

"We have been assured there will be no retribution against them in exercising their political expression," he

Jane's lists Israeli nuclear facilities

LONDON (AFP) — The authoritative Jane's Intelligence Review on Monday published details of what it described as seven Israeli nuclear installations, saying they were based on commercial satellite imagery.

Israel has never officially acknowledged being a nuclear power and hence refuses to submit to inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The best-known of the installations is the one of Dimona in the southern desert, first disclosed in 1987 by Israeli engineer Mordechai Vanunu to the British press.

Jane's said the Dimona facility includes a nuclear reactor and a plutonium processing plant.

The satellite images published by Jane's disclose little about the installation itself, which is hidden from ground view by dense vegetation cover.

The Soreq site in the west centre, known as Israel's "Los Alamos" after the pioneering facility in the southwestern U.S., houses nuclear research facilities and an American-made research reactor, Jane's said.

(Continued on page 7)

Maze of Israeli manoeuvring in 'early empowerment'

By Lami K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

WITH THE transfer of civil powers in health, tourism and social development to the Palestinians in the West Bank, more black, green, red and white Palestinian flags will be hoisted on buildings, that used to be once Israeli civil administration offices.

But many Palestinians are already wondering if the symbolic significance of the transfer really reflects or embodies a meaningful change that the early empowerment agreement reached in May 1994, was (apposed to bring about to the Palestinians.

For one, the agreement, as the transfer of education two months ago has practically illustrated, did not involve a meaningful delegation of authority but rather a limited transfer of responsibilities.

The transfer of educational affairs did not stop Israelis from closing Palestinian schools when it so wanted as a direct result of imposing curfews on different towns and villages while the Palestine National Authority (PNA) could do no more than protesting against Israeli actions.

Early empowerment was presented by Israeli and Palestinian negotiators as an advanced step towards a

gradual expansion of the Palestinian autonomy to the West Bank. But so far it has turned out that early empowerment is a practical translation of the original Israeli-promoted concept of Palestinians assuming control over daily affairs but not land and resources.

Initially early empowerment was supposed to start simultaneously with the setting up of the PNA, in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, but it was delayed by Israel for months.

The delay and the terms of the agreement reached prompted Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, the articulate former spokeswoman of the Palestinian negotiating

team, to retort that the agreement "was neither early nor empowerment."

Dr. Ashrawi's sarcasm did not come from a vacuum.

By the time early empowerment was reached, the PNA was already losing credibility in the West Bank, particularly after the massacre at the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron last February, and the terms of the accord seemed to perpetuate Israeli control.

Proponents of early empowerment argue that control over life is a prelude to control over land and resources, especially that it is part of a transitional period towards the

final status negotiations.

But a major flaw of early empowerment, as even some Palestinian negotiators now concede, is that it does not fully fragment the peace process but the interim period itself — as it is now divided to many stages that are being applied separately but not simultaneously.

Consequently, the PNA is having to run educational, and soon, tourism, health and social welfare without having any real authority in the West Bank or the power to enact the necessary legislation or to enforce policies.

Palestinian negotiators say the clear contradiction

between transfer of responsibilities and lack of power to implement and enforce policies was even clear at the negotiations. "It was particularly clear and awkward when we discuss taxes. How can the PNA run these different spheres if it cannot raise money for these services?" said one negotiator.

The early empowerment agreement involves transfer of some responsibilities before an Israeli withdrawal or a deployment of Palestinian police, while Israel maintains military orders in effect. A reading of the agreement shows that annexes that include laws refer to the West Bank.

as Judea and Samaria because the basis of reference is Israeli legislation and orders.

The compromise solution, that has still to be worked out, was for the Israeli occupation authority to authorize officials from the departments involved in the transfer to also act as "policemen" to collect the taxes.

What emerged later and was pointed out publicly by the respected Palestinian legal expert and human rights activist, Raja Shehadeh, was that the limited powers transferred included in the early

MAGNETIC
DAVID ROBERTS
DRIVING
GRAVITY
AVAILABLE
RAED-PRINT

هناك من لا يصل

France to assist S. Arabia ensure border security

PARIS (Agencies) — France and Saudi Arabia will open talks soon on details of a bilateral accord on security along the Saudi borders signed in Riyadh at the weekend during a visit by French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, officials said Monday.

Mr. Pasqua and his Saudi counterpart Prince Nayef bin Abdul Aziz signed the accord on Saturday. Under it, the French interior ministry will assist in stepping up security along Saudi Arabia's 11,000 kilometres of land borders with its Gulf neighbours.

Speaking in the plane that brought Mr. Pasqua's delegation back here, French officials said the border security accord might be applied in three phases over 10 years, with priority for areas where there were security "threats."

These might take the form of "destabilisation through infiltration, terrorist acts and arms trafficking," the officials said.

Mr. Pasqua for his part few details of the accord, except to say that it is "up to Saudi Arabia to indicate its exact needs."

On Sunday night Mr. Pasqua told journalists that France wanted to contribute to "regional stability, of which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an essential element."

French industrial circles said last week that France was offering four-wheel-drive and armoured vehicles, radar equipment, coastal patrol boats and surveillance planes as well as sophisticated electronic camera and transmission equipment.

Mr. Pasqua last met with Prince Nayef in January in the Western Sahara. The two men met twice in 1986 and 1987, when Mr. Pasqua was also interior minister.

Mr. Pasqua said the agreement he signed with Prince Nayef did not include arms deals.

He told a news conference the memorandum of understanding signed "does not include security arms sales. It is to develop the border guards" for the kingdom.

But he said his visit would strengthen friendship ties between France and Saudi Arabia and "produce good and positive results."

The French daily Le Monde said on Thursday Mr. Pasqua's talks would cover arms sales and would centre on ways in which France could contribute to the defence, protection and surveillance of Saudi borders.

It quoted defence industry sources as saying France would seek to sell Saudi Arabia armoured vehicles, radar, coastal surveillance vessels, helicopters and light observation aircraft for border surveillance.

Speaking through an interpreter, Mr. Pasqua, who met King Fahd during his visit, said their talks dealt with the situation of Muslims in France.

He said the king "stressed the importance of Muslims practising their rites when they settle in any country and to respect the laws of the countries they settle in."

Mr. Pasqua said: "France wants to organise the Muslim community so they can practise their rites freely and without infringing on the country's laws."

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted Mr. Pasqua upon his arrival on Friday as expressing France's opposition to exploiting religion for political ends by Muslims living there.

The French government's prohibiting of Muslim girls from wearing Islamic headscarves in secular state schools has angered many Muslims.

France was also cracking down on alleged Muslim militants.

Mr. Pasqua told the news conference that some "so-called fundamentalist groups used France as a base for their terrorist operations."

He did not elaborate.

French police detained 95 people including Algerians and French nationals of Algerian origin in a swoop on Tuesday which Mr. Pasqua said broke up a clandestine network supporting the armed Islamic Group (GIA), Algeria's most radical guerrilla group.

Mr. Pasqua said: "We have to be realistic in dealing with these organisations. We do not want to undermine the question of terrorism."

King's birthday celebrated

A decorated convoy of vehicles parade through Amman streets (top) and youngsters dance marking the birthday of His Majesty King Hussein on Monday. The day was a national holiday, with all government offices, public institutions, banks and schools observing it. Celebrations were reported from all governorates of the Kingdom (see page one) (Petra photos)



U.N. plans immunisation in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — U.N. agencies will launch a mass immunisation campaign this week to save children's lives in war-ravaged Afghanistan which has the world's second highest infant mortality rate, U.N. officials said on Monday.

The campaign, organised by the Afghan public health ministry in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the French relief agency Avenir and other aid groups, begins on Saturday.

The U.N. secretary general's special representative for Afghanistan, Sotirios Mousouris, said he had appealed to warring Afghan leaders for a ceasefire during the first stage of the operation.

"I've had positive letters from several leaders but it doesn't necessarily mean there will be a ceasefire," he said.

WHO representative Ashour Gebreel said radio messages would proclaim a "jihad" (holy war) against diseases which kill children and ask fighters to lay down their arms for a week.

According to the WHO, malnutrition and infections have combined with low im-

munisation coverage during the last 15 years of warfare to give Afghanistan an infant mortality rate of 184 per 1,000 live births, the second highest in the world.

"One third of these deaths are to vaccine-preventable diseases," the U.N. agency says.

WHO medical officer Mohammad Jama told Reuters nearly 9,000 health workers and volunteers had been mobilised across Afghanistan to carry out the first round of the campaign.

The aim was to vaccinate 970,000 children aged under five against polio. Children under two years would also be vaccinated against measles. About 760,000 mothers would get tetanus shots.

Children would be immunised against other diseases, such as tuberculosis, tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough in future rounds planned for April and May next year.

The eventual goal is to immunise 1.9 million children aged below five and 2.1 million mothers of child-bearing age, or 80 per cent of the target population.

Iran has promised to contribute eight million doses of polio vaccine, including three

million doses which were due to be flown to Islamabad on Monday, Gebreel said.

Iran's ambassador to Afghanistan, Ghulam Reza Hadadi, told a news conference in Kabul on Sunday he would be discussing a temporary ceasefire for the immunisation campaign with President Burhanuddin Rabbani and opposition leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

He said Iran was also planning to buy blankets, clothes and food locally for distribution to needy people on both sides of the divided Afghan capital, starting from next week.

ICRC airlift extended

Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has decided to extend for several days an ongoing airlift of medicine for wounded in Afghanistan, an official said here Monday.

The airlift is being carried out with the assistance of Indonesia.

"President Suharto of Indonesia has ordered the C-130 to be at our disposal until the end of this relief operation," said an ICRC spokesman.

The Indonesian military transport plane, which has already made three missions

ferrying medical and other humanitarian supplies here, was scheduled for two flights north of Kabul Monday.

It will carry some 30 tonnes of supplies from the eastern provincial capital of Jalalabad to Bagram airbase, 50 kilometres north of Kabul.

The Red Cross airlift began on Friday, with one load of medical supplies going to Bagram airbase, controlled by President Rabbani, and the other to the Logar airbase held by Mr. Hekmatyar.

The Red Cross expressed its satisfaction with cooperation from all the warring factions here.

"This airlift, accepted by all the parties, gives new hope to the thousands of war-wounded who are treated in and around Kabul," said Peter Stocker, head of Kabul Red Cross.

Expatriates working for the half dozen aid agencies now present in Kabul are critical of the United Nations for failing to attempt a similar relief operation in Afghanistan.

"The U.N., which has a clear mandate to assist Afghanistan, refuses to send its foreign staff to Kabul," said an irate foreign aid worker who declined to be named.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Histadrut to refund Palestinian unions

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's general labour federation, the Histadrut, has agreed to reimburse Palestinian unions with half the dues paid by Palestinian workers in Israel. A Histadrut spokesman said the accord, to be signed officially in Oslo in December, was drawn up in Gaza by Histadrut deputy chief Amir Peretz, Palestinian leaders Yasser Arafat and union leaders from the autonomous Gaza Strip and occupied West Bank. Under the accord, Histadrut will return to Palestinian unions one per cent contributions paid by Palestinian workers in Israel, retroactively from September 1993, the date the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) declaration of principles was signed in Washington. The funds will be used to finance Palestinian union activities and professional training courses. In a year's time new talks will be held to increase the amount transferred to the Palestinians, the spokesman said, without specifying how much money had been received in contributions. Histadrut has more than one million Israeli members. The spokesman said it had also set up a committee with Palestinian unions to fund joint projects.

At least 100 feared dead in Somalia floods

MOGADISHU (AFP) — The United Nations has sent emergency relief aid to southern Somalia where at least 100 people are feared to have drowned in flash floods. U.N. and Somali sources said Monday. "Emergency relief assistance is being sent to Somalia's Shabelle and Jubba regions where torrential rains have submerged farms and uprooted a number of people from their homes," said a UNOSOM (UNOSOM) spokesman. The U.N.'s special envoy to Somalia, Victor Ghebreyesus, visited the affected areas Saturday, ordered UNOSOM's aid department and non-governmental organisations willing to participate. The World Food Programme is expected to supply food, UNICEF tents and pumping equipment while UNOSOM troops have carried thousands of sandbags to the flood-swamped areas, UNOSOM said.

Militants shoot dead grocer in southern Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Suspected Muslim militants shot dead a Christian grocer and wounded his brother in southern Egypt, police said Monday. Samy Kamal Naguib died immediately and his brother was taken to a hospital, said a police official, speaking on condition of anonymity. The attackers fled after the Sunday night attack on the dead man's store. The incident took place in Mallawi, 260 kilometres south of Cairo. Militants seeking to turn Egypt into an Islamic state have targeted police, government officials, members of the Coptic Christian minority and foreign tourists. In the 2½-year campaign of violence, more than 450 people have been killed, many of them in southern Egypt which is a stronghold of the radicals.

Iranian killed by sword in Bucharest

BUCHAREST (AFP) — An Iranian national was stabbed to death with a sword over the weekend in Bucharest, police here said Monday adding that the incident could have been politically motivated. They said that Assad Mohammad Ali, 39, was stabbed through the heart Saturday by an unidentified assailant while in an apartment in the Romanian capital and died later of his injuries in hospital. "As in any investigation we are pursuing every lead including a political lead," said a police official who asked not to be named. He said Ali had entered Romania legally, but he would not disclose how long he had been in the country or for what reason. Romanian news reports, citing no sources, said Ali was an Iranian dissident accompanying a relative of the former Shah of Iran.

Comoros suspends recognition of Israel

PARIS (R) — The Comoros Islands, an Islamic republic in the Indian Ocean and a member of the Arab League, said on Sunday it was suspending indefinitely a decision taken just days ago to establish full diplomatic ties with Israel. "Normalisation will occur only after a settlement of questions at the heart of the Middle East conflict," the republic said in a statement issued in Paris. "This is why President Said Mohammed Djohar has decided that the agreement undertaken on Nov. 10 between the Federal Republic of Comoros and Israel will have to await such progress before taking effect," the statement said. The statement said that normalisation should be put off until peace agreements have been reached with Syria and Lebanon in exchange for the return of their occupied territories and a solution has been reached on the future status of Jerusalem that is acceptable to the Palestinians. The two sides had agreed to diplomatic ties at a formal signing ceremony last Thursday in Paris. President Djohar himself signed the agreement for Comoros while Ambassador to France Yehuda Lancry signed on behalf of Israel. The republic, a former French colony, had no previous ties with Israel.

Israeli army closes West Bank school

RAMALLAH (AFP) — The Israeli army closed a West Bank school on Monday, for the first time since the Palestinians took charge of their own education system in September, military officials said. The army shut the school in the town of Ramallah for 24 hours after students repeatedly pelted passing Israeli cars with rocks.

Turkish president to visit Georgia

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish President Suleyman Demirel will make an official one-day visit to Georgia Tuesday, his press department announced Sunday. The visit comes at the invitation of Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, a former Soviet foreign minister. Mr. Demirel and Mr. Shevardnadze will hold a news conference at the end of their talks and after separate meetings of Turkish and Georgian government officials.

PNA escalates conflict with Islamic groups in Gaza

By Neil Macfarquhar
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY — The freshly whitewashed walls that were the hallmark of Yasser Arafat's new administration have given way to even fresher paint proclaiming holy war against Israel.

"We are the sons of the Islamic holy war," red paint screams, boasting of the latest suicide bombing that left three Israeli officers dead. "We explode the heads of the Jews and travel on them to paradise."

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA), worried that hardliners will sink the peace process and drag Gaza's internal stability down with it, is escalating its confrontation with them.

"The Palestinians are threatened with destruction from within this time," said Gaza psychiatrist Dr. Eyad Sarraj.

At least 160 Islamic activists have been jailed in two days, and the leaders of Isla-

mic Jihad went into hiding.

There were reports of gunfire in one neighbourhood when Palestinian police began searching. The government also moved to prevent a repeat of the huge outpouring for Islamic activist Hani Abed, whose Nov. 2 car-bomb death was widely blamed on Israel.

Mourners chanted Arafat from his funeral. At later rallies, activists fired their guns in the air while men covered in white sheets — symbolic of their desire to carry out suicide operations — marched among throngs of chanting admirers.

The Palestinian National Authority is clearly worried that such outpourings will further weaken their already poor image.

"They are crossing the red line by these demonstrations, with M-16 rifles, the Kalashnikovs, this Iranian style," PNA Justice Minister Freih Abu Medeen said Sunday on Israel Television, declaring that some activists would re-

main in jail.

To try to ward off any similar outpourings, the government is trying to outlaw political rallies, and police buried the body of 21-year-old suicide bomber Hisham Hamad at night without informing his family.

At the wake, friends and Islamic Jihad supporters warned that a showdown was inevitable if the government tried to block attacks against Israeli targets.

"If our differences of opinion with the Palestinian National Authority leads to a showdown and it arrests or kills us, in the end we will consider the authority part of the Israeli occupation," said Abu Mahmoud, an Islamic Jihad activist who said he was wanted by the police.

Mahmoud Zahhar, leader of the larger Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, told a rally the arrests were groundless and designed to appease Israeli public opinion.

Frustration with the lack of

tangible change from the peace process feeds support for the Islamic groups.

The opposition is even mirrored in the very heart of Mr. Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Palestinian officials said an attempt to gather the Executive Committee in Gaza this week will likely be postponed because enough members to constitute a quorum probably would not show up.

Israeli forces left Gaza towns in May when autonomy started, but they still control the main highways used by 4,000 Jewish settlers. Gazans need an Israeli permit to get out of the strip.

That is one reason the Friday attack at a key crossroads by the suicide bicyclist was popular and the subsequent arrests are not.

"Our brother did not do this against kids or old people. He did it against soldiers. That is not terrorism. Our Koran says the Israeli occupation of this land must end," said Marwan Ham-

mad, the bomber's 38-year-old brother.

Growing poverty is the other main source of discontent.

Unemployment skyrocketed after Israel closed its frontier to workers due to escalating attacks claimed by Islamic activists, including a Tel Aviv bus bombing last month that killed 22. None of the investment expected to transform the impoverished strip has materialised, although towers with apartments at more than \$100,000 are shooting up near the shore.

"We used to hear that it would be the new Hong Kong, but there has not been one single project. Even most of the new white paint ran off the walls with the first rain," said Gaza worker Nasser Mohammad, 24.

The government seems mired in endless rounds of talks with Israel on spreading autonomy. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday that talks could take months

because of the bloodshed.

Construction workers who enter Israel fume at the humiliations suffered at the Erez crossing. This week they were turned away because they lacked cholera vaccinations, a new requirement due to an outbreak of the disease, but one they learned of when they arrived for work at 3 a.m.

One worker said the guards sneered at him. "Why don't you get a permit from Islamic Jihad?"

Palestinians say such exchanges only boost the credibility of the Islamic organisations as the only ones standing up to Israel, few expect the arrests will stop the attacks.

"We are heading towards a confrontation," said psychiatrist Sarraj. "If Yasser Arafat now is reluctant to go for widespread confrontation with them, he will eventually be forced to do it — if not by the Israelis, then by the feeling that he has to do it to keep himself in power."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Alice Au Pays Des Merveilles
17:30 Embourgeoisement Porte N1
18:00 Le Vent Des Moutons
18:30 News in French
18:45 News in Arabic
19:00 The Nature of Things
19:10 The New Leave It To Beaver
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The New Leave It To Beaver
21:10 Shades of L.A.
22:00 News in English
22:20 House of Elton
23:00 Fly By Night

PRAYER TIMES
04:39 Fajr
05:59 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:29 Asr
16:42 Maghreb
18:01 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637085
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 625543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624528
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A depression will affect the Kingdom, thus temperatures will continue to drop with a chance of rainfall in all parts of the country, and winds becoming westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy with a chance of showers. Winds will be southerly active and seas rough.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 8/15
Aqaba 14/25
Deserts 7/17
Jordan Valley 15/22

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 18, Aqaba 28, Humidity readings: Amman 35, per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fakhri Tayeh 883880
Dr. Salim Debbasi 776751
Dr. Nidal Dahleh 827195
Dr. Bassam Karadseh 759200
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asiri pharmacy 637025
Nairokh pharmacy 626372
Al Salam pharmacy 636720
Shamsi pharmacy 649445
Shamsi pharmacy 637650
Nairokh pharmacy 626372
Najib pharmacy 847632

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 773121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605890
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
ZARQA:
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

JORDAN TELEVISION
Radio Jordan 773111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/2
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Ajliah Maternity, J. Amn 642411/2
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664171/4
St. Joseph Hospital 669151
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musabir Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666171/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajir 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 77111/26
Army, Marks 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 686100
Amal Hospital 074155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

ZARQA NATIONAL HOSPITAL
09-983323
Al-Sina Hospital (09)900560
Al-Hikmah Modern Hospital (09)999990
EMERGENCIES
Princess Beama Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725
Im Al-Nafes Hospital (02)347100
AQABA:
Princess Raza Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
04:00 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:30 Dammascus (RJ)
09:15 Dhahran, Aqaba (RJ)
11:30 Dhahran (RJ)
11:35 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
11:55 Paris (RJ)
12:00 Amsterdam, London (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, Toronto (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
20:00 Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)
20:30 Larnaca (RJ)
21:25 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:16 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
08:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:05 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:30 Brussels (RJ)
11:35 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
11:55 Paris (RJ)
12:00 Amsterdam, London (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, Toronto (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
20:00 Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)
20:30 Larnaca (RJ)
21:25 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:16 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)
06:00 Vienna (OS)
14:05 Munich (YB)
17:05 Rome (AZ)
20:00 Aden (DY)
20:30 Beirut (ME)
21:25 Amsterdam (KL)
23:50 Bucharest (RO)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 700/500
Banana (Mukannar) 620
Carrot 120/70
Cauliflower 320/200
Cucumber (large) 280/200
Cucumber (small) 180/100
Eggplant 300/200
Garlic 620/500
Grape Fruit 380/200
Lemon 280/200
Marrow (large) 180/100
Marrow (small) 360/220
Olive (green) 650/450
Onion (dry) 500/300
Onion (green) 480/300
Orange 650/500
Pepper (hot) 300/200
Pepper (sweet) 280/200
Potato 350/200
Spinach 300/180
Tomato 500/300
String beans 900/600

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:45 Dammascus, Paris (AF)
10:15 Larnaca, Rome (AZ)

Home News

U.S. Mideast policy not likely to change under Republican-led Congress — former U.S. envoy

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Republican domination of the U.S. Congress after the recent elections is unlikely to bring about any major changes in Washington's Middle East policy and the U.S. foreign aid programme, says Richard Murphy, a former senior American diplomat.

Mr. Murphy, who served as assistant secretary of state during the two terms of Ronald Reagan in the White House, also believes that the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy agreement could lead to an independent Palestinian state if the Palestinians played their negotiating cards right.

The veteran Middle East troubleshooter, who also served as ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Syria, is also convinced that it is only a matter of several months before Damascus moves to make peace with Israel.

Mr. Murphy, who left Amman on Monday after attending a two-day meeting on the "human dimension of the Middle East peace," was speaking to the Jordan Times in an interview.

Mr. Murphy, now a senior fellow of the Washington-based Council on Foreign Relations, addressed Arab and Israeli concerns that the Republicans, who now control both houses of the U.S. Congress for the first time in 40 years, would cut down the foreign aid programme chartered by the democratic Clinton administration. Mr. Murphy said he did not expect any dramatic climb-downs from American financial commitments.

"There may be different emphasis and different personalities," but American politicians understand the value of foreign aid, in terms of protecting U.S. interests abroad, said Mr. Murphy. "It is a favourite pastime for both Democrats and Republicans to criticise foreign aid without studying the facts of the aid programme."

Mr. Murphy noted that ultraconservative Republican Senator Jesse Helms "had threatened to slash foreign aid when he assumes the chair of the Senate Foreign Committee in January. But, said Mr. Murphy, Mr. Helms was a member of the same committee for many years and had gone along with fore-

ign aid programmes under different administrations.

"Republicans in general are more critical of foreign aid," Mr. Murphy told the Jordan Times. But, "well-justified and planned projects in support of the Middle East peace process will definitely get funding."

"I don't know how far the new congressional team will pressure the White House on the issue of foreign aid, but there will not be a day-and-night change," he said. "Any major cut in foreign aid will be a policy shift which facts do not support."

On the political level, he said, "bipartisan support for the peace process is assured. I don't think there has been a foreign policy issue more truly bipartisan than Middle East peace for more than two decades."

Mr. Murphy rejected Palestinian complaints that Israel had no intention of accepting the establishment of an independent state and the declaration of principles signed with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in September 1993 was only a ploy aimed at making peace with the broader Arab World.

The declaration of principles, he said, "opened the door for the possible establishment of a Palestinian state" but the features of that state and Palestinian independence are issues that the Israelis and Palestinians have to negotiate between themselves.

"The Palestinians are not going to get a state as a gift from the world," he said. "They have to negotiate it and secure it."

Mr. Murphy agreed that the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations were the most difficult in the Middle East peace process. "It is very hard to shed old images and accept new realities after so many years of rhetoric," he said.

"Both have to find an acceptable solution that does not threaten each other and in which both can live," he said. "It will be painful for the Palestinians as they put aside the rhetoric of liberation and realise that whatever way this process may develop they will have to accept limitations on their concept of independence that has been shaped from political speeches."

Asked why Washington never supported the idea of creating an independent Palestinian state and even refused to use the term self-determination to describe the rights of the Palestinians, Mr. Murphy said: "If we had said we support a fully independent Palestinian state we would have been held in high esteem in the Arab World, but it would remain rhetoric, without any content... I wish I could have used the term Palestinian self-determination during my years in office. It would have made my conversation in Arab capitals so much easier, but little else."

Mr. Murphy said the Palestinians should listen more closely to voices within Israel and study them positively rather than decide that they meant a no to their quest for an independent state.

"Many Israelis, including Likud and Labour members of parliament, seem to be convinced that the declaration of principles is going to lead to an independent state."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is repeatedly attacked over this, he said: "When the Palestinians hear Israelis attacking the idea of an independent Palestinian state, they despair. A state cannot be built through violence and rhetoric. If they want to change their relationship with the Israelis from that of an occupied with an occupier, they have to negotiate."

While the end of the cold war, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the Gulf crisis were among the factors that brought about the Middle East peace process launched in Madrid, "fatigue" in the Arab World as well as Israel, the "fatigue of confrontation," and "despair" also were equally important elements that prompted the two sides to start negotiations, he said.

"The problem between the two peoples, Israelis and Palestinians, was always there. Now they are trying to work out a relationship on the same small piece of land that they both lay claim to. (In the) next months, next years will see changes in the fundamentals on both sides. But there has to be a relationship."

Despite the violence in the occupied territories and

opposition from hardliners, the peace process is "irreversible," although it will not be easy, Mr. Murphy said.

"It is not easy to transform or bypass 27 years of an occupied-occupier relationship."

Mr. Murphy blamed "everybody" for the delay in getting the promised international aid to the Palestinians. The delay is often cited as a reason by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat for the continuing despair and violence in the occupied territories.

First and foremost, Mr. Murphy said, "there has been a tendency to talk too much about the economic benefits of peace in terms of daily life of the people," as this has raised people's expectations.

"The World Bank could have moved quicker in terms of transparency and accountability, and the world community could have moved quicker," he said.

"Everybody has to be criticised for the delay in getting economic aid to the Palesti-

nians."

On Syrian-Israeli negotiations, Mr. Murphy, who has met with Syrian leaders dozens of times, said "he was convinced that there would be a breakthrough in the next few months."

"I don't think that there are differences that cannot be addressed in negotiations," said Mr. Murphy, adding that it was his understanding that Israel had always understood that the return of the Golan Heights in its entirety would be the price for peace with Syria.

"They knew that there will not be any discount on the Golan, and the price had to be paid in full," he said.

"The question was always whether the price was worth peace," he said, adding that Israel appears to be coming close to appreciating that peace was preferable.

Similarly, there is also a rising awareness in Syria of the need for peace as evidence in obvious government efforts to prepare the Syrians to accept a settlement with Israel.

However, Mr. Murphy cautioned Syria to speed up its moves. "I hope Syria would be able to see the Israeli political calendar, which shows general elections in 1996."

'Planned airport development to cost more than JD 43m' QAIA, Marka and Aqaba facilities to undergo 4-year upgrading works

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Monday announced plans for the development of the airport at Amman, and Aqaba to meet the requirements of an expected increase in air traffic operations in the region.

According to a CAA statement, more than JD 43 million plan would enable the airports — two in the Amman area and one in Aqaba — to handle increased numbers of passengers and augment air transport services.

In Aqaba, the plan provides for the enlargement of the passenger buildings, construction of residential quarters for airport employees, and the installation of various electrical and mechanical infrastructure works in addition to modernising the communications system.

The plan for Aqaba airport alone, said the statement, was expected to cost JD 24 million.

At Amman Marka Airport, more than JD 6 million will be spent on reconstructing the runway, enlarging the passenger facilities, setting up a fire engine unit, asphaltting internal roads, building an annex to the CAA headquarters and modernising the present communications systems and improving lighting.

At the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) the CAA said it plans to dig a tunnel under the tarmac at the cost of JD300,000, separate the arrivals and departure lounges for another JD300,000, complete the ring road around the airport for JD400,000, build a JD400,000 mosque on the airport grounds, establish an airport taxi complex for JD100,000, set



Queen Alia International Airport

up JD120,000 worth of warehouses and enlarge the passenger facilities at nearly JD1.5 million.

In addition, said the statement, the CAA plans to build a road from the nearby Qasab district to the airport, improve the Meteorology Department's facilities, modernise the

central air-conditioning systems and carry out other related works at an overall cost of JD5 million.

Also at QAIA at least JD1 million will be spent on installing special equipment.

It said that JD4 million will be spent on training

personnel, installing new navigational systems, improving facilities at the air traffic control centres at all the airports and purchasing special training equipment.

These plans will be put into force at the beginning of 1995 and will take four years to complete.



LIGHTING UP THE VALLEY: Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Talaat Ureikat Monday opens one of several electric power projects in the Jordan Valley within a programme for the electrification of rural regions in the Kingdom (Petra photo)

UNRWA commissioner attends school ground-breaking ceremony in Taybeh

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Idris Turkmen Monday attended the ground breaking ceremony for a new UNRWA school building in Taybeh south of Amman, according to an UNRWA statement.

The school will be constructed and equipped at a cost of \$478,000 from the UNRWA general fund.

The land on which the

school is to be constructed, was purchased with a donation of \$172,500 from the United States.

The school will include 24 classrooms, four administrative rooms, two teachers' rooms, a library, a science laboratory, a multipurpose room and other facilities.

It will serve 3000 girls and boys in the elementary and preparatory cycles operating on a double shift basis.

In addressing the ceremony Mr. Turkmen emphasised that UNRWA "is in constant touch with its donors and is making every attempt to obtain donations for its general fund and for projects under the Peace Implementation Programme to meet the needs of the refugees not only in Gaza and West Bank, but also in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic."

The ceremony was attended by Ele Saaf, director of UNRWA Affairs in Jordan, Naceur Bouchouchi, director of education UNRWA, senior government and UNRWA officials and a large crowd of the area notables and residents, said the statement.

UNRWA in Jordan provides 10 years of schooling to more than 152,000 Palestine refugee children in 201 schools, with 4,400 teaching staff.

Scientists to start workshop on bio-technology in farming

AMMAN (Petra) — Twenty-five scientists and experts from 13 Arab and foreign nations are gathering in Amman today for a three-day workshop on the application of bio-technology in farming, according to an announcement Monday by the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST).

Abdul Rahman Fatafah, head of the HCST's agricul-

ture sector, said the workshop at Safawi, northeast of Amman, is designed to orient the participants on the advanced methods of biotechnology and its benefits to farming in dry and semi-arid regions with particular attention to the Jordanian badia regions.

Discussion at the meetings will also focus on the most appropriate and efficient utilisation of the natural resources in the badia and on other nations' experiences in the application of biotechnology in areas that lack sufficient water supplies and suffer from soil salinity, said Dr. Fatafah.

Twenty working papers submitted to the workshop, according to Dr. Fatafah, are provided mainly by Jordan and are dedicated to discussing agriculture in semi-arid regions, plants can be grown in such areas, the effect of applying biotechnology to field crops and the use of fertilisers and their effects on agriculture.

He said several organisations and research centres are represented at the meeting.

Jordan Mobile Telephone Services Co. has the following vacancies:

1. Director of Marketing.

Education:
Experience:
Age:

Bachelors degree in Marketing
At least 5 years.
30-40 years.

Fluency in English is a must.

Preference will be given to candidates with experience in marketing in the service sector.

2. MIS Manager.

Education:
Experience:

BCS degree in Computer Science or Systems Analysis.
At least 5 years.

Fluency in English is a must.

Preference will be given to candidates with experience in radio telephony.

3. Communications Engineers.

Education:
Experience:

Bachelors degree (minimum)
At least 3 years

Fluency in English is a must.

Preference will be given to candidates with experience in radio telephony.

4. Executive Secretaries.

Applicants must have a minimum of 3 years experience, be completely fluent in English and have completed an executive secretarial course from a recognised institution.

5. Accountants.

Applicants must have a minimum of 3 years experience, have adequate command of English and hold a university degree in Accounting.

6. Sales Representatives.

Applicants must have adequate command of English and experience in sales.

7. Customer Service Representatives.

Applicants must have adequate command of English.

Applications with a TYPED CV and recent photograph should be mailed to:

Personnel Manager
JMTS
P.O.Box 7521 - 1118.
Amman - Jordan

All applications will be treated in confidence.
Applications must be received before Nov. 20, 1994 and successful applicants will be called for interviews in due course.

Sri Lanka's new government turns into 'family business'

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka set a world record Monday with a mother-and-daughter team for premier and head of state after the landslide victory of the ruling People's Alliance in last week's presidential polls.

Sirima Bandaranaike, 78, already in the history books as the world's first elected woman prime minister, was sworn in Monday for the same job, but with less powers, before her daughter, President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

The two women clasped hands and wished each other long life at the ceremony held at the official "Temple Trees" residence of the president.

The Bandaranaike dynasty now includes three prime ministers and a president.

The new premier's husband, Solomon Bandaranaike, won the post in 1956 but was assassinated in 1959. His widow was elected premier the following year.

Like her mother, Mrs. Kumaratunga too became a political widow in February 1988 when her film-star-turned-politician husband Vijay was gunned down in front of her and their daughter Yasodara, 14, and son

Vimukti, 12.

Elected premier only last August, Mrs. Kumaratunga, 49, told an interviewer that she was uncomfortable with high office, but she took to it like a duck to water because ruling the country was "like a family business."

Mrs. Kumaratunga won a 1.99 million-vote majority at Wednesday's presidential poll and became the country's first woman president Saturday.

Despite the successes of the upper-caste family, the Bandaranaiques have been plagued by the bitter rivalry between an Oxford-graduate son and a French-educated daughter.

Mrs. Kumaratunga first made her mark as the country's first chief minister in May 1993. After that, she rose like a meteor while her younger brother Anura Bandaranaike's career plunged.

Anura lost a leadership battle to her and defected to then ruling United National Party (UNP) in December last year. Their elder sister, Sunethra, maintains a low profile politically, but supports their mother.

Despite the difficulties of being in the opposition for 17 years till parliamentary polls

last August, "Mrs. B" — as the premier is affectionately known — managed to hold her Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) together. The SLFP is the main constituent in the ruling alliance, which she also leads.

Asked what her message to Anura Bandaranaike was after her presidential victory, Mrs. Kumaratunga said: "Usually I don't speak to the deaf and the dumb."

She has resisted moves by the mother to bring back Anura to the SLFP fold.

The flamboyant Anura, 45, had got used to partying and long overseas holidays during his more than 16 years as a front-bencher in the opposition.

For a brief six months, Anura was minister of higher education, a reward from the UNP government for ditching the family last December. After defecting, Anura said his mother was "not very happy" but called her a "tough nut."

"We are a very civilised family unlike the Bhuttos," he said, referring to similar feuding in the family of Pakistan Premier Benazir Bhutto. He also justified his defection by saying his father had helped to form the UNP.

Solomon Bandaranaike set up the SLFP in 1951 after being sidelined by the UNP, and went on to win a sweeping victory at the 1956 elections. He was assassinated by a Buddhist monk in September 1959.

Suddenly, the responsibility of leading the SLFP fell on Mrs. Bandaranaike, a housewife and political novice cruelly dubbed the "dumb doll" by opponents.

However, she rode the crest of a sympathy wave and went on to be the world's first elected woman premier in 1960. She lost the 1965 election, but staged a comeback five years later and ruled the country till 1977.

Despite her lack of experience, the convent-educated Mrs. Bandaranaike played a key role in defusing tension between India and China after the brief border war between those two nations in 1962.

The Bandaranaiques were close to the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty in India, which helped her sort out long-drawn disputes with their giant neighbour.

Mrs. Kumaratunga said Saturday that India would be one of the first countries she would visit as president.



Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike (left) President Chandrika Kumaratunga Monday takes her oath of office before her daughter (AFP photo)

U.S. Republicans take aim at welfare

WASHINGTON (R) Key U.S. Republicans Sunday declared war on American welfare programmes in the wake of their election landslide, vowing to pass dramatic reforms when they take control of the Congress in January.

Speaking on TV talk shows, the news leaders of the House of Representatives and the Senate left no doubt that they plan radical changes, including cuts in food stamps, public housing subsidies and aid to families with dependent children.

Black civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson said the Republicans had "declared war on the poor," CNN TV reported.

Newt Gingrich, who will be the new speaker of the House following last Tuesday's Republican victory in mid-term elections, hinted he believed welfare assistance should last two months, not two years.

He said charities and orphanages should take more of the burden of caring for the destitute.

"People ought to have to do something for any resources they get if they're able-bodied, under the age of retirement," Mr. Gingrich told ABC's This Week With David Brinkley.

"Our goal should be to create enough jobs to mop up the unemployed — not to create welfare, to give people an alternative to work," he said, adding that he favoured expanding private charities to help those who could not find work.

Mr. Gingrich has pledged to tackle the issue within the first 100 days of the next Congress. His "contract reform," including a plan that would allow states to limit aid to young mothers and use it to build orphanages instead.

Incoming Senate majority leader Bob Dole said welfare reform was one of his top priorities, although he expressed some scepticism that orphanages would play a central role.

"I do think we need a radical change in welfare. The American people are ready for real welfare reform," Sen. Dole told CNN's Late Edition. "We'll do it very quickly. We're both on the same wavelength."

There are 14.3 million people on Aid to Families With Dependent Children, the main federal welfare programme, and nine million of them are children.

Sen. Dole said he expected President Bill Clinton to "weigh in" with his own welfare reform proposals, but threatened to proceed even without his help.

"He may not want to go far enough. If that's the case, we'll have to give him a choice to veto a welfare reform bill," Sen. Dole said.

Mr. Clinton introduced his own package of welfare reforms in June, but Congress failed to act on his proposals, which would have shifted one million people from welfare to government-subsidised jobs by the year 2000.

Sen. Dole said welfare policies in the past 30 or 40 years may have helped people temporarily, but they had created incentives for having children out of wedlock.

Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, also called for dramatic changes to state and federal welfare programmes, where spending totalled \$301 billion last year.

"I want a comprehensive welfare bill that asks the people riding in the wagon to get out... and help the rest of us pull," said Sen. Gramm, who plans to run for president in 1996, calling for a mandatory work requirement.

Sen. Gramm, speaking on NBC's Meet The Press, also called for cutbacks in federal food stamp and public housing subsidies.

"Look... when we're spending all this money and we have half the children born in our big cities born out of wedlock, when we have people who have made a profession out of being poor, it's time to change the system, and I'm not the least bit squeamish about saying it," he said.

said, adding that he favoured expanding private charities to help those who could not find work.

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Sen. Dole said welfare policies in the past 30 or 40 years may have helped people temporarily, but they had created incentives for having children out of wedlock.

Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, also called for dramatic changes to state and federal welfare programmes, where spending totalled \$301 billion last year.

"I want a comprehensive welfare bill that asks the people riding in the wagon to get out... and help the rest of us pull," said Sen. Gramm, who plans to run for president in 1996, calling for a mandatory work requirement.

Sen. Gramm, speaking on NBC's Meet The Press, also called for cutbacks in federal food stamp and public housing subsidies.

"Look... when we're spending all this money and we have half the children born in our big cities born out of wedlock, when we have people who have made a profession out of being poor, it's time to change the system, and I'm not the least bit squeamish about saying it," he said.

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Britain launches national lottery

LONDON (R) — Clairvoyants, a math genius and a psychically charged red dot offered to help Britons win the country's first multi-million National Lottery Monday. The lottery, whose profits will fund sports facilities, the arts and charities, was launched in the morning. Tickets went on sale around a country which has long shied away from such officially sanctioned gambling, common across Europe. Broadcasters remained punters their chances of choosing the winning combination of random numbers was tiny — an estimated one in 14 million.

Britain's last attempt at a National Lottery fizzled out in 1826 after around £5,000 in prize money was handed out. The 20th century could attract £20 million (\$32 million) a week, its organisers said. Newspapers carried pages of advice on playing the lottery, which will be drawn Saturday on what is expected to become the most popular television programme in Britain, and tips for the hopeful on how to improve their chances. The Sun printed a large "psychically charged" red dot and told readers that rubbing their one-pound (\$1.50) lottery ticket over it would increase their chances of success. The Star called in a clairvoyant who said the first winner would be a chubby, bespectacled blond woman in her 40s.

Another paper's expert advised filling in the ticket upside down. Would-be millionaires were also urged to be cautious and not to follow the example of winners of football pools — until now Britain's nearest thing to a lottery — by giving up work and letting the money take over their lives.

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Fistfights in Pakistan parliament injure several MPs

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Several opposition MPs were injured Monday in the Pakistani parliament, where fist fights, scuffles and pandemonium broke out during a speech by President Farooq Ahmad Leghari.

Witnesses said at least five deputies were assaulted as they emerged from the hall following the 45-minute session, during which the opposition continuously booed and shouted slogans against the president.

One member of the National Assembly, Rao Qaiser, was taken out of the parliament building on a stretcher and had facial bruises.

The uproar made Mr. Leghari's address 'inaudible'. The opposition alleges the president plays a partisan role in favour of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The parliamentary rumpus was the worst since Ms. Bhutto assumed office about a year ago.

Scuffles broke out as a group of government MPs, led by chief whip Khurshid Shah, beat back about a dozen opposition members who charged towards the president.

Supporters of opposition leader Nawaz Sharif and Ms. Bhutto also exchanged blows in a gallery after the session, which was attended by more than 250 members and watched by diplomats and chiefs of the Pakistani army, navy and air force.

Ms. Bhutto sat silently in her seat rolling prayer beads throughout the noisy proceedings. Mr. Sharif, in the adjacent row, also was silent.

Assembly guards were called to protect the prime minister during the proceedings.

Mr. Sharif recently launched a campaign to oust Ms. Bhutto, organising protest marches, general strikes and rallies to mobilise the public.

"What happened at the assembly shows that the democratic system is under serious threat," said Ms. Bhutto's estranged younger brother, Murtaza Bhutto, a provincial MP.

He said both sides were to blame for turning the house into a "fish market and arena of hoodlums."

During the session, dozens of opposition MPs waived placards in the house, attacking Mr. Leghari and Ms. Bhutto and the prime minister's MP husband, Asif Ali Zardari.

The session followed the arrest Sunday of Mr. Sharif's father, Mian Mohammad Sharif, a leading industrialist who was charged with criminal misconduct, financial forgery and evasion of income taxes. Although Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar denied the arrest had political motives, the opposition called it a "deliberate provocation" ahead of the president's speech.

The younger Sharif said his father's detention was "political victimisation." He said the government was underestimating the opposition and the arrest "will not deter me from completing my mission."

The parliament building was surrounded by armed police and the Islamabad administration banned public gatherings in the city.

In a departure from the past, Mr. Leghari's address was not broadcast live, but an apparently edited recording was shown more than two hours later.

Mr. Leghari, elected to the presidency in November 1993 as a candidate of the ruling Pakistan People's Party



Injured opposition MP Rao Qaiser is carried out of the parliament on a stretcher by his colleagues Monday after scuffles and pandemonium broke out during a speech by President Farooq Ahmad Leghari. At least five deputies were assaulted as they emerged from the hall following the 45-minute session, during which the opposition continuously booed and shouted slogans against the president (AFP photo)

(PPP), called for an end of political polarisation.

Mr. Leghari also lauded the "bold and innovative" steps taken by Ms. Bhutto's government, saying "we can feel satisfied over substantial achievements during the first year" of the government.

Former Mozambique rebels 'preparing to occupy towns'

MAPUTO (Agencies) — Mozambique's former rebels are preparing to occupy the port city of Beira and the northern town of Nampula because they appear to be losing the first free elections, a government official charged Monday.

"It seems that demobilised soldiers of RENAMO (the Mozambique National Resistance) are returning to their bases, with arms, while armed groups have been spotted" around Nampula, the governor of Nampula

province, Alfredo Gamito, told AFP.

RENAMO was also planning to occupy Beira, Mozambique's second city and the stronghold of former rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama, sources in the ruling Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) alleged.

But Mr. Dhlakama Monday rejected allegations that he was preparing to return to war and said they were lies fabricated by FRELIMO.

"I categorically deny the accusation. It's a disinformation campaign by the FRELIMO party," Mr. Dhlakama said in an interview with the national Radio Mocimboa.

"I don't know if (President) Joaquim Chissano is behind this, but I think FRELIMO is afraid, because despite fraud in the elections, RENAMO has won a strong position in parliament," he added.

An alleged RENAMO document reprinted in the pro-FRELIMO Domingo newspaper Sunday described plans for reorganising Mr.

Dhlakama's ex-guerrilla forces to contest their forecast defeat in the historic elections, held on Oct. 27-29 under a peace accord ending more than 16 years of civil war.

The latest results from the national elections commission, released Sunday after 79 per cent of votes were counted, put Mr. Chissano well ahead of Mr. Dhlakama in the presidential poll.

They also gave FRELIMO a lead over RENAMO in parliamentary elections.

spounded and he was shot immediately. Another officer was shot on a rooftop," police spokesman Lt. Tom Del Torre said.

Dozens of police officers poured into the area, which was sealed off.

Volleys of bullets were fired as the gunman dodged between parked cars, witnesses said. After a 30-minute shootout, police said they shot and killed the gunman.

A police bomb squad expert said what may be a detonator and wires were found near the body of the dead suspect.

Officer James Guelfi, 40, was shot in the head and was in critical condition at San Francisco General Hospital, a hospital spokeswoman said.

The second wounded police officer, John Payne,

42, was in serious condition with a chest wound.

An ambulance that rushed to the scene during the shootout was sprayed with bullets and a woman paramedic was shot in the arm. She was treated and released from the hospital.

Another man was shot in the leg and was in fair condition.

Spent bullet casings littered the area which remained cordoned off late into the night as police searched for clues. The windscreen of a police car was shot out and walls riddled with bullets.

Witnesses described the gunman, who was not immediately identified, as a white man in his mid-30s. Police could not immediately explain what prompted the shooting.

16 French policemen hurt in clashes

PARIS (R) — Sixteen policemen were injured in clashes with rioting French Muslim youths overnight in the northern French town of Amiens, a town spokeswoman said Monday.

Witnesses said some 200 teenagers, children of Harkis, or Muslim French army veterans, burned cars and built barricades.

The spokeswoman said a

shotgun appeared to have been fired at police during the clash, wounding one policeman.

The youths told reporters they were angry because police had broken up a party they were attending on Saturday night.

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Decision off target

THE GOVERNMENT's decision to slash considerably custom duties on cars and other imported consumer goods is understandable in part by the need to meet some basic conditions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), in which Jordan is seeking membership and to prepare for the new climate of peace in the Middle East and the promise of more robust regional economies. GATT or the World Trade Organisation (WTO), as it will be known, calls for a 60 per cent ceiling on import duties on products that are not manufactured locally. In this strict sense alone, the government's decision does not seem to go far enough. New custom duties are effectively over 100 per cent on the smallest of cars, if sales and import taxes are added to the current applicable custom duties. This in turn suggests that the Kingdom has only partially met the pre-conditions of WTO or its predecessor GATT and that more custom reductions could be in the offing in the years ahead. This will certainly add to the confusion that has characterised the car market in particular.

Pressed in between are Jordanians who were caught off guard and who had bought their vehicles on the basis of persistent Ministry of Finance pledges that no custom deductions are being considered. All such buyers who chose to put their trust in government assurances suddenly found out that the values of their newly purchased cars have dropped by no less than 30 per cent, literally overnight. These bad investments call for remedies in one form or another. We cannot reward those who did not take the government's promises at face value and penalise those who did. There is a legal basis for seeking compensation by those who acted in good faith on the basis of Ministry of Finance policy that preceded the Saturday decision. Even a class action can be filed by all Jordanians, who suffered losses, against the government on account of the "false" information that was fed into the market prior to the recent policy reversal on custom duties.

Even more pressing is the need to articulate a more long-term coherent and forthright policy on duties that the market can understand and cope with. If Jordan's projected membership in the WTO would necessarily mean more slashing of custom duties by the end of 1995, then Jordanian consumers must be told here and now in order to avoid the cycle of inequities that have resulted from the recent cycle of contradictory governmental statements.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

TAREQ MASARWEH said Monday, that Jordanians rejoice over the happy occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, remembering his relentless efforts for his country and the Arab Nation throughout the past years. The columnist, who writes for Al Ra'i, said that the Jordanian leadership accomplished semi-miracles for the Kingdom despite the external pressures and despite the tragic events of the past years, which ranged from confrontation with Israel, to the consequences of the Gulf war. Under King Hussein, the Kingdom witnessed progress at all levels and in every field and this progress is a source of pride for the Jordanian people who have the right to rejoice and wish their King long and happy life at the helm of the nation, said the writer. He said that the people of Jordan who faced hardships in the past have all the reason to rejoice now as their country is entering a peace era and is enjoying economic, social and political stability.

THE VISIT of King Juan Carlos to Jordan coincided with the country's celebration of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday and came to reaffirm the strong ties between Jordan and Spain, said a columnist in Al Bustan Monday. Saleh Qallab said the Spanish monarch's sharing the joy of the Jordanian people on this happy occasion is a show and a proof of the strong ties between the two nations, which have lasted for hundreds of years. Spain and Jordan are linked through historic ties in culture, the economy and other fields and the Spanish monarch's visit coincided with a moment when the Kingdom is enjoying the peace treaty, which Jordanians view as a new window to the outside world and a step preceding an era of prosperity and construction in an atmosphere of stability and security, said the writer. He said that Jordan takes pride in the Spanish king's visit and his sharing with the Jordanian people their joy over King Hussein's birthday. He expressed hope that the visit will open new avenues for greater measures of cooperation between the Spanish and the Jordanian peoples.

The View from Fourth Circle

Hamas, Islamism and the last two decades

By Rami G. Khouri

THE SUDDEN surge in the popular support for Hamas in Palestine has been perceived by many in the West and the Middle East as a threat to the successful implementation of the PLO-Israel peace process. In fact, the opposite is true: Hamas is surging because the peace process is floundering. The Hamas issue raises the larger question of the direction and real condition of Islamist politics in the Middle East, especially in view of the situations in Egypt and Algeria. Two decades have passed since the start of the modern Islamist revival in the mid-1970s, enough time to gauge their performance and to glean valuable clues about how best to deal with the important challenge they pose and the issues they raise.

Islamist politics is not a fringe movement of crazies, as it is portrayed in the West. It is the single most important manifestation of contemporary Arab political, social and economic discontent, and the leading expression of popular rebellion, reawakening and revival throughout the Middle East. Like Christianity and Judaism, its role and defining mission since its inception as a religion has been to provide comfort in times of distress, stability in times of change, justice in times of inequity, and hope in times of despair. Because of its predominance in developing, colonised lands throughout the South, Islam has also played an important role as an agent for national identity, liberation and dignity.

The roots of today's populist, politicised Islam lie deep in the many nationalist, anti-colonial and anti-Western struggles in the modern Middle East that relied on Islam as a rallying cry to seek freedom from foreign subjugation, to forge national entities from tribal alliances or to reform and revive their stagnant societies in the 19th century, from the Mahdi in Sudan and the Wahhabis in Saudi Arabia to Muhammad Ibn Al Sanusi in Libya and Abd Al Qadir in Algeria, among many others.

Reformist Islamist movements in the 20th century were led by Jamal Al Din Al Afghani, Muhammad Abdu and Rashid Rida in Egypt, Allal Al Fasi in Morocco, Abdul Azz Al Thalabi in Tunisia and Abdul Hamid Ibn Badis in Algeria.

In the mid-1970s, the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamist groups were well-positioned once again to step into the role of protectors and saviours, and they also had a large new constituency — the burgeoning mass of uneducated, unskilled, displaced and often unemployed urban slum dwellers, along with the shrinking, increasingly worried and resentful middle class and educated professionals who were unsatisfied with the Westernisation of their societies.

Within a few years, the oil boom increased the fiscal, military and political power in the hands of the Arab state and the few people who controlled it; it accelerated the already significant social alienation that was a consequence of migration, urbanisation, and Arab cultures that had to import most of their needs; it exacerbated economic disparities and ultimately forced massive economic adjustment, having allowed a small number of Arabs to hoard immense, unearned wealth while subjecting the majority of Arabs to the slow, persistent ravages of inflation, unem-

ployment or poverty; and it heightened the glaring gap between the apparent fiscal and military power of the Arabs and the reality of Arab weakness and failure in the face of Israel and its Western patrons and backers.

The Islamist resurgence, including Hamas, can be traced directly, clearly and exclusively to the Arab people's need for a means to seek shelter from this set of underlying problems and from the inability of the Arab states to respond to them. As Israel and most Arab and Western states have tried to crush the Islamists by a combination of political denial and brute force, they have only strengthened and radicalised the Islamists.

Such government repression will only exacerbate the underlying economic regression and political autocracy that feed the growth of the Islamist movements — as Egypt and Algeria attest — while heightening the credibility and appeal of the Islamists as the most important opposition force, especially among the economically poor, the socially alienated and the politically marginalised. This should be kept in mind as we assess the Arafat-Hamas standoff.

Repression has not only discredited relatively moderate mainstream Islamists such as the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and Palestine, Amal in Lebanon, and the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in Algeria; it has also helped spawn more intransigent and violent groups such as the Islamic Group in Egypt, Hamas in Palestine, Hizbollah in Lebanon, and the Armed Islamic Group in Algeria. Conversely, where Islamists are accepted as part of the political system and are allowed to organise and compete for power — in Jordan, Yemen, Kuwait and parts of Lebanon — they tend towards moderation, pluralism, democratic electoral competition, nonviolent struggle and a minority but credible role in the political power structure.

The experience of Islamists in the political systems of the region has been very mixed, and is important to grasp. Islamism has been an effective force for protest, challenge and solace, but is unable to date to translate its vision and promise into a coherent political programme that responds to people's practical needs, or to deliver the stable, sensible statehood that Arabs seek. It remains vague about the precise political, economic and social programmes it would institute, and has no real, proven national successes. Its strength as a movement that seeks change, goodness and justice has not been matched by its success as an ideology of statehood or an incumbent regime.

The five most prominent examples of explicitly "Islamic" contemporary states — Iran, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Sudan and Pakistan — all have positive assets and emotionally and politically satisfying attributes, but they are hardly a collective paradigm of sustainable economic development, national stability, personal freedoms, intellectual tolerance or political pluralism. In several countries, Islamists of different ideological bent have exercised local or national power by winning through the ballot box (Jordan in 1989, Algeria at the provincial and municipal level in 1990-1991, Kuwait in 1993 and Yemen in 1994), by seizing power in tandem with the military (Iran, Sudan), or

by virtue of their status as one of several ethnic-religious groups in a power-sharing system (Lebanon).

In virtually all of these cases, they have been unable to deliver on their promises of improving people's quality of life. Islamists remain more an expression of Arab problems than the means to their solution. This is perhaps a great shame; but it is also an empirical truth of the modern Middle East that we should not miss as we once again ponder the future of our region and the place of Islamist politics within it.

In all countries where Islamists have competed for power in an open, free and pluralistic political system they have made some gains, but then they have generated opposition to themselves and, in some cases, have lost public support. The clearest example of the latter is in Jordan, where the Islamists (Muslim Brotherhood and Independent Islamists) won 40 per cent of the seats in the Lower House of Parliament in 1989, but won only around 22 per cent of the seats in 1993.

In Iran the Islamist regime's economic incompetence has led to rising foreign debt, foreign exchange shortages and high inflation, causing intense pressures on the government budget and on the purchasing power and living standards of ordinary families. Equally problematic is the regime's brutality, including at least 15,000 executions that have been carried out in the country since the 1979 revolution. The regime faces a serious challenge to its policies in the form of spontaneous demonstrations and riots throughout the country, along with unprecedented public calls for more personal and intellectual freedoms. Iran represents the first example of an Islamist political culture that is increasingly unsatisfactory to its own people and that is being held accountable and challenged from within.

The experience of political Islamists in the last two decades suggests that they will remain strong and appealing where they are at the stage of challenging regimes (such as in Algeria and Egypt), but they will prove less credible in cases where they are in power or where they compete for power in an open system (Iran, Sudan, Jordan, Lebanon, Yemen and Kuwait, among others).

Most of the underlying causes that have fed the Islamist revival — especially state political brutality, humiliation by Israel and the West, economic disparity and the stresses of brisk social transformation and Westernisation — are worsening in the region, not improving; therefore Islam's political appeal will remain robust for many years, as we witness so clearly with Hamas in Palestine.

The most appropriate response to the Islamist resurgence by Israel, the West, or uneasy Arabs and Muslims is to tackle its causes rather than its symptoms — to identify and resolve the underlying political injustices, economic disparities, social pressures, and other causes that have fed the Islamist wave since the mid-1970s, rather than to try to crush it militarily or to keep it out of the political system. The choice in Palestine is between the Egyptian or the Jordanian models. The Egyptian model will lead to a violent, ugly war, and the Jordanian model will lead to more gradual, peaceful political evolution.

Process of reconciliation must be understood in a social, psychological context

The writer, the widow, of former Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, delivered the address below to the Roundtable on "The Human Dimension of the Middle East Peace Process," which ended in Amman Sunday.

IT IS a great honour to participate in the Roundtable on "The Human Dimension of the Middle East Peace Process." Tonight when I speak I will borrow many words from my husband Olof Palme.

My husband Olof Palme died in April 1983 in Stockholm, of the situation in the Middle East.

"We are convinced that dialogue and conversation are urgent necessities and that a political solution is an ethical obligation." He drew attention to the Nordic Social Democratic tradition of contributing to the search for peace.

tional security must rest on a commitment to joint survival rather than on a threat of mutual destruction."

The report was presented in June 1982 at the Second Special of the United Nations General Assembly on Disarmament.

Common security was seen in the report as a principle for cooperation in many different parts of the world. The search for lasting security does not end with peace agreements, but only begins there, as the people of this region know very well. It requires cooperation in social, economic and environmental security.

As the last words of the report state, "common security is not only a matter of freedom from military fear... Its objective, in the end, is to live a better life; in common security and common prosperity." John Jørgen Holst, who was one of the main contributors to

ing as early as the 1950s about the Palestinian children growing up in refugee camps — and he was deeply worried.

Around half of the Palestinian population are children — more than 45 per cent are aged 14 or younger — and many of them are the grandchildren of the first generation of refugees. To carry the heavy burden of defensiveness, hate, anger, grief and struggle for survival is not an environment that promotes harmonious development for children.

Tonight I will emphasise the demanding duty of the United Nations to support children and young people after the peace treaties. When I was chairing the UNICEF Board Meeting in 1991, we decided to expand support for the Palestinian children. Since then UNICEF has broadened its interactions to protect these children's rights. UNICEF is operating in close cooperation with UNRWA.

UNICEF's undertakings have contributed positively, even if Palestinian children and young people have continued to live under enormous pressure in the early 90s. Around one million Palestinian children still live in exile in neighbouring countries.

I believe that it is essential to continue and expand the work already established by UNRWA and the other U.N. organisations.

Two events are of importance in guiding continued contributions by people working for UNICEF: The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the World Summit for Children in September 1990, which resulted in a political commitment in the form of a Declaration and a Plan of Action. These two events gave the world common concepts and a common language concerning children's protection, survival and development.

The convention on the Right of the Child is an instrument which aims to secure the child's — every child's — human rights, including civil, political, economic and social rights. The challenge is to internalise the provisions of the convention in every individual and family. To make these

rights a reality, children and young people have to debate and discuss it also among themselves.

More and more countries, now 167, have ratified the convention, which means they have decided to incorporate the right of the child in their law. The convention on the Rights of the Child is a specific norm, and facilities judgements about what a country itself can do for its children, and what it can ask from more wealthy countries in the form of development aid.

Most of us have a natural feeling for caring for people in difficult circumstances — even small children can already show empathy and are able to comfort others.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is about the human rights of every child; it is about the child's right to be protected, not only by parents but also by society. The best interests of the child have to be a primary consideration. Society has to take an active part in this process. Now, around the world, National Plans of Action — emanating from the political commitment from the summit — concerning child policy are being prepared and in these years the convention has to play an instrumental role.

Children are in many ways exposed to extreme strain, and suffer under the scourge of war. Palestinian children and young people belong to this category. Why is it so important to change living conditions for these children and young people? The cultural tradition and language have kept the Palestinian people together but the young Palestinians have carried the burden of their parents' grief, anger and frustration over the severe loss of country, home, family and friends. The parents' whole families have been persecuted and deported.

After the peace treaties, the process of reconciliation must be understood in a social and psychological context. These young people have themselves experienced the loss of their nearest — and dearest — they have suffered brutal abuse and they have been traumatised. Which young person can dare to identify with the victim? To survive

under such circumstances, a young person is likely to mobilise the full capacity of his aggressivity. Now we want these young people to start to believe in a future peaceful society, a future including a kindergarten, playground, education and work, a future where the desire to live is guided by the joy of friendship and getting together, exchange of knowledge and cultural meetings across borders, yes, to enjoy life and to take up the responsibility for social development. For this to happen young people must experience and consciously understand that the adult world has changed. Together, over the generations, the future must be discussed. The schools must have an active role and the young people a concrete participation in the process of change.

order to improve their own situation, as well as their future possibilities in caring for their families. Mother-and-child health care involving psycho-social support and parental education are of course essential. But play and cultural must also be enabled to develop. All programmes must be based on cooperation with the emerging Palestinian authorities as well as with community organisations and charitable societies — the methodology must be capacity building.

Let me conclude by again quoting my husband, at Harvard University in 1984-10 years ago:

"Our efforts to develop society and our dreams of the future must bear in mind that which is continually recurring — the invariables in all human life that are relevant across all

"If the earlier period of broad traumatisation is left without treatment, the development of society can be perforated by destructive incidents caused by children's painful experiences and their unreasonably heavy burdens."

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people are great undertakings of life — let me call them the life projects — which are the same for people in all countries and will also be so in the future.

"During the course of life, we all meet the same challenges: to grow up and be educated; to find playmates and friends; to prepare ourselves for our different roles in adult life; to find a place in working life and make our own living; to find somewhere to live and make it into a home; to form a family and bring up children; to keep healthy throughout life and cope with illness and other misfortunes that may beset us; to secure a decent living and preserve our dignity for the inevitable frailty of old age; to live as free citizens, equal with other members of society; and to take a share in being responsible for the common good."

Festivities on King's birthday

(Continued from page 1)

icapped in Al Adassich town near Karak.

The JD 2.185 million centre will house 150 persons aged between 12 and 40 years.

On the occasion, King Hussein received cables of good wishes from heads of Arab and foreign countries.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin sent King Hussein greetings saying that Israel was celebrating the special day with the King.

"I believe you can look back on this past year as one of singular fulfillment," said the message.

"The attainment of peace between Jordan and Israel is a testimony to the success of your personal role which was second to none," it added.

"The people of Israel celebrate your birthday today alongside the people of Jordan and wish you many long years in which we will all reap

the rewards of true peace," Mr. Rabin wrote.

Jordan Television aired special programmes chronicling King Hussein's reign of 42 years and highlighting the peace treaty Jordan concluded with Israel on Oct. 26.

The King and the royal family spent his birthday at Ajlun. A private party was to be held there Monday evening with King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain leading the guest list.

"May God protect you for our sake," a newspaper greeting said. Others included, "We stand firmly behind you" and "With you our happiness is renewed every year."

King Hussein has ordered an amnesty for 342 soldiers jailed for desertion, officials said.

They said the amnesty covered prisoners who have already served a certain part of their sentence.

Iraq sanctions unchanged

(Continued from page 1)

disarmament official urged Iraq to provide more information on its weapons programmes, saying there were "significant gaps" in what the United Nations knew about them.

American Charles Duelfer, deputy head of the U.N. Special Commission on Disarmament (UNSCOM), arrived in Iraq Monday for four days of talks on the biological weapons programme.

"There are significant gaps in what we know," Mr. Duelfer told reporters. "I think that the substantiation which we require for the description of past (military) activities is lacking."

He said he would meet General Amer Rashid, head of the Iraqi Military Industrialisation, to discuss "problems in implementation of the monitoring system" for Iraqi weapons programmes.

The United Nations ordered the dismantling of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction — including its nuclear, chemical and biological programmes — after Iraq was ejected from Kuwait in February 1991.

Mr. Duelfer said he could not predict when the full monitoring system would be put in place as "it depends upon the cooperation of the Iraqi government... the information it can provide and the systems it can offer."

His team includes UNSCOM operations chief James Moore and spokesman Tim Trevan.

A team of U.N. biological weapons experts headed by American Richard Spertzel begins a mission in Iraq on Tuesday.

UNSCOM's Swedish chief Rolf Ekens said in a report on Thursday that the Iraqi disarmament programme was progressing "surprisingly well."

But he reported "contradictions" between the information obtained by his

'commission on military deliveries to Iraq and data provided by Baghdad.

His report came a month after the trial launch of a long-term monitoring system for Iraq's weapons programmes.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, speaking in an interview broadcast on Sunday, hinted that President Saddam might one day be accepted as a fully-fledged member of the international community.

Mr. Kozyrev, who spearheaded the successful Russian diplomatic drive to persuade Iraq to recognise Kuwait, now wants the sanctions against Baghdad to be gradually eased.

Asked by Russian independent television station NTV whether Washington might try to block the lifting of sanctions, Mr. Kozyrev replied:

"I am counting on the United States to be able to contain its emotions and recognise one thing — in international affairs, people do not act in the same way forever."

He said the classic example was Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat, who in 1989 did not take part in a session of the United Nations General Assembly after Washington made it quite clear he was not wanted.

"Look, five years later, the same Arafat, wearing the same headcloth, is greeted in a very friendly manner by (U.S.) President Clinton, among others. And he wins the Nobel (Peace) Prize," said Mr. Kozyrev.

"(Another) example — many people in this country until recently were communists. And now they have become democrats."

Mr. Kozyrev last week demanded an "adequate" United Nations response to Iraq's recognition of Kuwait. Moscow sees an easing of sanctions as a natural step.

Maze of Israeli manoeuvring

(Continued from page 1)

empowerment were part of a special declaration by the Israeli military governor.

According to Mr. Shehadeh, who also heads the internationally renowned Al Haq human rights foundation, Israel has only enacted four such declarations since its occupation of the West Bank in 1967.

Declaration number four announced that the Israeli military governor of the West Bank "transferred," and not even "delegated," some powers to the Palestinian Authority (PA), as the PNA is referred to officially, to enable it to run the departments transferred to it by the early empowerment agreement.

In other words, the early empowerment agreement seems to have been incorporated in the Israeli occupation laws and regulations which contradict initial assumptions that it would be a step to gradually set the stage for an end to the occupation.

Chief Israeli negotiator General Danny Rothchild did not seem to deny that or pretend to when he declared immediately after the signing of the agreement that the Israeli control of the West Bank was consolidated.

Some PNA officials however, still see early empowerment as a positive step since they are aware that it will be difficult to proceed to elections or redeployment of Israeli troops without implementing it first.

The implementation of

early empowerment was also divided into stages. Palestinians had had to negotiate to get Israel to continue its application and hand over health, tourism and social development.

Some PNA officials even came to see Israeli approval to hand over health, social affairs and tourism as "an important concession" when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin finally offered to do so last week at the Erez crossing meeting with Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Rabin's reason for the delay was that the PNA did not have funds and he had relented when money started coming from international donors.

Thus, instead of pressing for holding elections and Israeli withdrawal, the PNA was still having to push for the implementation of the early empowerment agreement partly to prove to the Palestinians that the peace process was working and partly to improve living conditions in the West Bank.

But even as the transfer takes effect, the whole process of early empowerment is so far just reinforcing Palestinian suspicion that all the agreements signed with Israel are transforming the PNA into a functional body entrusted with limited powers to assume part of the responsibilities of the Israeli occupation authorities. According to Palestinian writer Nasser Al Aroui, early empowerment transferred the burden but not the authority.

By Ayman Al Safadi

The economics of haste

FOR OVER a year now, the government has been promising to introduce a tax reform package that will address the many imbalances that mar the country's tax system and hinder the growth of the economy.

But promises are all that have come from the government. The only changes that have been introduced to the system are those that serve the government's purposes, often at the expense of the citizens and to the detriment of the economy.

The last measure in the government's selective treatment of the tax system was Saturday's lowering of the customs levied on vehicles. The government has long denied that such a step was in the making, despite the many rumours and "reports" that the customs will be lowered. That

led to uncertainty which pushed the car market to a standstill. In the world of economics, uncertainty is a sure way to cripple the economy, and crippled was the car market for weeks, if not months.

It is true that the decision will benefit many citizens who will now be able to own their own cars. But it will also hurt thousands of Jordanians whose losses as a result of the decision will be in the millions of dinars. Every one who bought a car within the last several years will see the price of their cars going down significantly.

Many people are still paying back loans they took to purchase the cars. Who, and what, will compensate them for their losses? But obviously the lot of

this category of citizens was not on the minds of officials who made the decision, because had this been the case, they would have thought of means to minimise the negative impact the decision would have on the people.

The government's desire to comply with the demands of either the International Monetary Fund (IMF), or the U.S. government or the GATT treaty, should not be realised at the expense of people. After all, the objective of the economic restructuring programme is to improve the economy. That means making life easier for people, raising their living standards and easing the pressure forced on them by a confused taxing system, inflation and

low salaries among other factors. But above all, the government cannot hope to cover bureaucratic incompetence with absolutist decision that trample on the rights of the individual taxpayer or treat citizens as if they were all merchants and traders.

The government has to take immediate action to address the negative repercussions of its decision. It should not keep on introducing haphazard changes to the customs and taxation system. It either reforms the system as a whole or compensate the people who suffer from its selective moves. Neither the economy nor the people can afford to live with the government's unwillingness to take a global view when it tackles economic issues.

The legislature should also play its role and prevent the executive authorities from playing havoc with the fortunes of citizens. Its message to the government should be clear: Introduce a complete tax reform package or do not expect the endorsement of any selective treatment of the tax system. We are fully aware of what happened when the Minister of Finance floated ideas to reform the income tax regime earlier this year. Injustice was done unto his package, simply because he mobilised against him. But in this era of peace and reconstruction in Jordan, the government cannot allow populist policies to blind it to what we really ought to be doing: basic-

ly, reforming and modernising the bureaucratic system, and widening the official outlook with due regard paid only to the long-term benefit of citizens and their country.

"The government still has time to amend the decision, or follow up with another capable of addressing the imbalance that has been created. In that regard, it could grant tax breaks to people who are still making payments on cars they have purchased with phenomenal prices under the old customs regime. That, the government can, and should, do if it cares about protecting what in many cases is the life savings of many Jordanians. We have to assume that the government does care about that, or does it?"

The writer is on the staff of the Jordan Times.

Why Gaza is still under Israeli control

By Uri Davis

THE SALAAM restaurant on the beach near the harbour is reputed to serve the best fish in Gaza. Gaza fish market is next door and the fish served at the restaurant are always fresh. The Gaza fishing industry is reviving and a new port is under construction. On the beach families gather under the shade of screens made of the frames of dry palm branches. Along the coastline new white apartment and office buildings have gone up. At the gate of President Yasser Arafat's headquarters there is a permanent gathering of groups of well-wishers and supplicants. The curfews are gone. Gaza is one step towards liberation from Israeli occupation — or is it?

Four months after the return of Mr. Yasser Arafat, President of the State of Palestine, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of the Palestinian Revolution and Head of the Palestine National Authority, to the homeland on July 1, the Palestine National Authority in Gaza and

Jericho is now firmly in place and under his control.

But although just four months in office, the new Palestinian administration has already demonstrated an appetite for violence and violation of fundamental human rights. Rival Palestinian security organisations have engaged in shoot-outs and arson in the West Bank and are implicated in at least one assassination in Tulkarm. A Palestinian detainee, Farid Jarbu, suspected of collaboration with the Israeli occupation authorities, died after 10 days' detention and interrogation by Gaza's Palestinian police on July 6.

The Declaration of Principles of September 1993 and the Cairo Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area of May 1994 made it possible for Mr. Arafat to return to Palestine. With him PLO officials and Palestinian deportees have returned and Palestinian political prisoners will be progressively released. Like all of them, Mr. Arafat deserves a warm reception. But Abu Ammar is not only a deserving fighter for Palestine and the leader of Fateh who has returned from exile. He is also return-

ing as his excellency Yasser Arafat, President of the State of Palestine, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of the Palestine Revolution, and Head of the Palestine National Authority. A damaging situation is now established where Mr. Arafat, the head of the Palestine National Authority is accountable to Mr. Arafat the Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of the Palestine Revolution, who is accountable to Mr. Arafat, president of the State of Palestine. The process of Palestinian democratisation in the interim period of the new Palestinian authority must begin with the de-coupling of these four offices. Abu Ammar, will I am certain, have the support of the Palestine National Council to choose any of the above jobs, possibly two out of the four. He will fail in all his jobs and risk a civil war unless he does so soon.

Illusory sense of freedom But the new sense of freedom from Israeli occupation is illusory. The Palestinian "autonomous area" of the Gaza Strip remains under physical Israeli occupation control.

The curfews have been removed from Gaza's centres of population. Israeli patrols are rarely if ever seen. Public order is maintained by armed Palestinian "green" and "blue" uniformed police. But anyone familiar with apartheid South Africa will immediately recognise the arrangement for what it is: the "autonomous" freedom granted by an apartheid government to a "bantustan" homeland.

Along the border with Israel a new electronic fence is being constructed around the Palestinian autonomous area. It is designed to isolate the areas of Palestinian self-rule from... Israel and from the Israeli settlements at Gush Katif, which occupies about one-third of the territory of the Strip in its southern half. As of May 18, the autonomous area of Gaza has been declared by order of General Matan Vilnai, head of the Southern Command, to be a closed military zone. All holders of Israeli blue identity cards, namely all Israeli residents (including Jerusalem Palestinians), must obtain military permits from the Israeli authorities in adv-

ance of entrance into the self-rule areas as defined in the Cairo agreements of May. The relevant Israeli military authority is the Regimental Commander of the Operations Division (AGAM), stationed in Nuriyah, Gush Katif. By example, last month a solidarity delegation headed by Member of Parliament Hashim Mahamid (Democratic Front for Peace and Equality) was delayed for some four hours at the Erez checkpoint before it was allowed into Gaza.

Thus, a third of the Gaza Strip remains under Israeli settlement control. The settlers (and all holders of blue Israeli identity cards) are free to travel to the settlement district of the Gaza Strip without hindrance through designated latitudinal roads. But the access of organisations and individuals committed to the defence of human rights, the defence of Palestinian rights, the defence of Palestinian political prisoners and the support of former political prisoners after their release is now strictly controlled by the Israeli occupation authorities. As

mentioned above, as of May it is prohibited for any holder of an Israeli blue identity card to enter the areas of Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip without a permit. To elaborate the point, the permit required is not a permit issued by the Palestine National Authority, but a permit from Israeli military occupation authorities, the regional commander of the Operations Division in the Qatif settlement bloc.

Against the backdrop of this situation on the ground, two questions beg immediate consideration: is the segregation of the Gaza Strip with a massive new electronic security fence a signpost for the future delineation of an international border between Israel and an independent state of Palestine? Are the Israeli military occupation restrictions on entrance of holders of Israeli identity cards into the Palestinian autonomous area of the Gaza Strip a harbinger of Palestinian independence?

In the view of this writer, the answer to these two questions must be negative.

Middle East International

PNA pursues crackdown

(Continued from page 1)

the number of militants detained since the suicide bombing.

Mr. Arafat is under strong pressure from Israel to rein in the Islamic militants who oppose the Israel PLO autonomy accord.

The authority had rounded up activists from the militant Hamas group several times in response to Israeli pressure since Gaza came under self-rule in May. They were released within days.

But Mr. Abu Medeen said the smaller Islamic Jihad had "crossed a red line" when its members jostled Mr. Arafat out of the funeral 10 days ago of a Jihad activist killed in a bombing which all Palestinian factions blamed on Israel.

Palestinian police chief Major-General Nasr Youssef said his forces had arrested 120 Jihad members and had orders to go on arresting Mr. Abu Medeen put the number of arrests at 160. Security sources said some 230 members and supporters of the group were on lists to be detained.

PLO officials and Jihad supporters said they expected the detentions to last longer, and even spoke of Jihad members being brought to trial for offences against public order.

Officials said scenes of armed Jihad activists burning flags "Iranian-style" in the streets of Gaza last week had angered Palestinian leaders.

"It appears Islamic Jihad is posing a challenge to law and order," Gen. Youssef told Reuters.

Both sides are looking for a formal agreement to govern their relationship, and a Hamas cleric has taken a judicial post in the authority.

Even Israeli politicians have said they draw a distinction between Hamas as a political movement and as a "terror" organisation, and talked of possible agreement with the group.

Asian leaders back Korea deal

(Continued from page 1)

told a news conference at the home of the U.S. ambassador, about three kilometres from the embassy.

"I feel comfortable the commitment we have received will be honoured."

The United States, he added, "had no problem with these young people coming

expressing their views in our embassy grounds, and we've talked with them and worked with them."

The 29 East Timorese invaded the embassy on Saturday, demanding Mr. Clinton intervene to secure the freedom of their jailed independence struggle hero, Kanana Gusmao.

Somalis appeal to U.N.

(Continued from page 12)

FAO vows to remain

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has vowed to pursue its work in Somalia as U.N. troops and other relief agencies pull out.

Volunteers working for the international agency Pharmaciens Sans Frontières — (PSF — Pharmacists Without Borders) announced Sunday that they were withdrawing.

The PSF decision and the "we'll stay" declaration by FAO Somali Director Talib Ali came as the Somalia Aid Coordination Body prepared to meet in Geneva on Wednesday to examine the role and future operations of U.N. agencies and other relief organisations here.

PSF said its decision to pull out was a result of local employees demanding payment "above and beyond what is due them in salaries," resulting in an "insecure situation making it impossible to continue working."

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SETTLING DISPUTE: Opposition deputies were injured in fist fights and scuffles during a speech of President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari. The opposition alleges the president capital. The hearing followed pandemonium in parliament where several opposition deputies

Christopher trip on hold

(Continued from page 1)

we'll have an unexpected breakthrough I mean, what is the sense of stopping the negotiations?"

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi has said Lebanon and Syria could resume direct peace talks with Israel after Mr. Christopher's next trip to the region.

But Mr. Hrawi also warned in a newspaper interview published Monday to mark the end of his fifth year in office that a peace treaty was out of the question until Israel withdrew from South Lebanon.

"We are like (doubting) Thomas: we won't believe it until we see it. We will wait for Christopher and depending on what he brings, we will discuss with Damascus if we return, as part of one team or two teams," he told Al Safir.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaf said earlier this month that Damascus could return to the negotiating table in Washington after Mr. Christopher's visit.

Jane's lists Israeli facilities

(Continued from page 1)

The Palmikim test range a few kilometres north of Soreq "tests nuclear-capable missiles like the Jericho," said the magazine.

The Yodfat facility 30 kilometres west of the northern port of Haifa is a site for assembling and dismantling nuclear weapons, it said.

Eilat, 20 kilometres west of Yodfat, is "a storage site for tactical nuclear weapons," said Jane's.

Be'er Yaakov, near the city of Ramla 35 kilometres northwest of Jerusalem, is the facility where the Jericho II missile is built, said the magazine.

The seventh facility listed by Jane's is Kfar Zekharya, described as "Israel's nuclear missile base and the bunker for storing nuclear gravity bombs."

Kfar Zekharya, "located in the hills... is the home for Israel's strategic nuclear deterrent," said Jane's. "The area is naturally suited to the construction of underground bunkers because it is com-

posed of limestone and riddled with caves."

A Jericho II missile was fired from the Zekharya base during the Gulf war, said Jane's.

"Satellite imagery also provides some evidence concerning the number of nuclear weapons Israel might have," said Jane's. "For instance, the images of the missile base (at Kfar Zekharya) show that there are at least 50 nuclear-tipped Jericho IIs. This does not include any older Jericho IIs in Galilee."

"If Israel is trying to build a balanced strategic deterrent, it is logical to assume that the country has an equal if not larger number of gravity bombs," it said. "In addition, there would be a need for dozens of artillery shells, landmines and demolition devices that could push the final number up to nearly 200 weapons."

"This," concludes Jane's, "is clearly within the Israeli's capability, given the plutonium production rates provided by Vamun."

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Israel seeks to join OECD

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 13/11/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6950	0.6970
Swiss Franc	1.1101	1.1157
Deutsche Mark	0.4541	0.4564
Swiss Franc	0.5413	0.5440
French Franc	0.1320	0.1327
Japanese Yen	0.7106	0.7142
Dutch Guilder	0.4041	0.4061
Swedish Krona	0.0443	0.0445
Italian Lira	0.0443	0.0445
Belgian Franc	0.0443	0.0445

Other Currencies
Date: 12/11/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Lebanese Lira	1.8270	1.8460
Lebanese Lira	0.041050	0.042340
Saudi Riyal	0.1844	0.1858
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3050	2.3650
Qatari Riyal	0.1897	0.1912
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.7860	1.8140
UAE Dirham	0.1656	0.1696
Greek Drachma	0.2725	0.3235
Cypriot Pound	1.4350	1.5350

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

Currency	Rate
U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3550/60
Canadian dollar	1.5424/34
Deutsche mark	1.7288/98
Dutch guilder	1.2920/30
Swiss franc	31.74/78
Belgian franc	5.3048/98
French franc	1584.4/5.4
Italian lire	98.37/47
Japanese yen	7.2175/75
Swedish crown	6.7300/50
Norwegian crown	6.0227/77
Danish crown	\$1.5896/06
One sterling	\$384.95/385.25
One ounce of gold	\$384.95/385.25

UAE begins issuing new certificates of deposit

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) central bank has started issuing improved certificates of deposit (CDs) to absorb swelling liquidity and boost its investment abroad, bankers have said.

Demand for the new CDs, which included higher interest rates and maturity periods, was relatively active and it would grow further given the absence of other major investment opportunities in the region, the bankers said.

"There is a stronger demand for the new CDs as they are much more attractive than the previous certificates," one banker said.

"They are also more flexible as we can sell them back to banks or the central bank."

The central bank decided to upgrade CDs in February and sales began a few months ago. Only banks are entitled to buy CDs so far, despite calls from local businessmen for the government to give them access.

The new rules set interest rates on CDs at around the London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR) and extended maturity periods from a maximum six months to 12 and 18 months, according to a central bank statement.

It said such rules would enable the UAE's 47 national and foreign banks to employ their excess liquidity in a profitable and secure financial instrument.

The improvements pushed up the value of CDs to around 4.56 billion dirhams (\$1.32 billion) at the end of June, from nearly two billion dirhams (\$544 million) in June 1993.

CDs plunged to their lowest level of 1.1 billion dirhams (\$299 million) in December 1990, nearly five months after the Iraqi invasion of neighbouring Kuwait.

The new CD rules are part of overall reforms to strengthen the UAE's banking sector, which has been jolted by successive crises over the past 10 years, including the Gulf war, crippling bad debts and the collapse of the Abu Dhabi-controlled Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

The reforms, which covered stronger government intervention, restrictions on credits and incentives for mergers, gained momentum

after the Bank for International Settlement (BIS) set guidelines on capital adequacy for banks worldwide to ensure they had enough funds to face financial problems.

The increase in the value of CDs and in deposits and investments boosted the total assets of the central bank to 24.77 billion dirhams (\$6.74 billion) at the end of June, from 22.4 billion dirhams (\$6.10 billion) at the end of 1993, according to the central bank.

Bankers said the CDs, which are offered to banks in return for their deposits with the central bank, would help the central bank to boost earnings through increased overseas investments. They noted that the returns on those investments remained higher than interest rates on CDs.

Central bank profits from investments abroad jumped to 800.1 million dirhams (\$218 million) in 1993, from 589.4 million dirhams (\$160.59 million) in 1992. The increase came mostly from a rise in returns on government bonds and treasury bills.

Indian businesses get protection against hostile takeovers

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian businesses have been nagged by fears of falling prey to hostile takeover bids since the government unleashed the private sector from rigid state controls and made the economy more responsive to market forces.

But three years after the economic reforms were initiated, the finance ministry reassured the heads of vulnerable companies by announcing a takeover code that seeks to protect against clandestine corporate raids.

Buyers whose shares exceed five per cent of a company's paid-up capital would have to disclose the extent of their acquisition to the firm's management and to the bourses on which the scrip is traded, the ministry said.

The disclosure must follow within four days of the buyer's holdings crossing the five per cent mark. Those who acquire more than 10 per cent of a company's equity will be required to make bi-annual statements on the extent of their holdings.

In a negotiated takeover, buyers should not acquire more than 10 per cent of a company's equity unless the purchase is accompanied by a public announcement of an intention to acquire at least another 20 per cent, the finance ministry said.

And in open-market takeovers, buyers cannot accumulate shareholdings of more than 10 per cent unless they make a public offer to purchase another 20 per cent at the highest market price commanded by the scrip within a six-month period.

Such a public offer would, however, not be necessary when a promoter acquires a financially weak company with the intention of rehabilitating it.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the market watchdog, was empowered by the government to investigate and launch criminal proceedings against violators of the takeover code.

The finance ministry said the regulations would make takeovers transparent and orderly and protect ordinary shareholders, and described the rules as a step in the direction of capital market reforms.

The code is aimed primarily at preventing clandestine takeover attempts by allowing time for the management and shareholders of target companies to take evasive action.

The Associated Chambers of Commerce welcomed the announcement, saying the regulations would promote a "shareholders' democracy."

D.H. Pai Panditkar, former secretary-general of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, told The Times of India that the rules were a "welcome step."

"It will give an option to shareholders to protect their interests," he said. He added that a takeover would be very difficult to mount because of the prohibitive 30 per cent equity stake that an investor needed to acquire.

S.L. Rao, director-general of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, said the government should also move to protect corporate "crown jewels" vulnerable to overseas takeover bids.

He cited as an example the \$1.2 billion Tata Iron and Steel Co. (TISCO), the flagship of the Tata business empire.

TISCO was at the centre of a storm following remarks by its chairman, Ratan Tata, in July that a predator from overseas was out to grab the company.

Tata later denied a specific threat to TISCO, but said hostile takeovers could not be ruled out in India's liberalised business environment.

The shareholding of management in many Indian companies is as low as six per cent.

Paris-London Channel tunnel train service begins

PARIS (R) — A sleek grey and yellow bullet train slid out of Paris' Gare du Nord station early Monday carrying the first fare-paying passengers on the new Eurostar express service through the English Channel tunnel to London.

The train left at 8.06 a.m. (0706 GMT), a minute ahead of schedule, and arrived at London's Waterloo station just over three hours later at 10.13 a.m. local time (1013 GMT).

Designed to hit speeds of 300 kph (187 mph) as it crosses northern France, it will initially connect the British and French capitals twice a day in times rivaling air travel and cutting the old rail and sea crossing by more than half.

One of the 794 passengers boarding the first Eurostar through a spanking new customs and passport control area of the grimy central Paris station was Calvin Evannoff, an executive with American Airlines.

"I'm taking it just to see what it's like. It's very interesting as an alternative to air travel," he said.

Another sold-out service was to leave Brussels' Gare du Midi for London later and morning trains from London to Belgium and France were also scheduled to begin early Monday.

By next summer about one train an hour will be running from the main cities, close to matching the frequency of air links. The railways also plan through services connecting towns further from the channel via the tunnel.

Each \$40 million Eurostar is built by the Franco-British firm GEC-Alsthom that makes France's TGV high-speed train.

Tickets for the first few services, operated jointly by French, Belgian and British state railways, sold out within days of going on sale last month as rail buffs — who made up much of Monday's first passengers — and regular travellers rushed to use the much-delayed undersea link.

The Paris-London single fare is 645 francs, with a cheap, pre-booked ticket available at 395 francs — prices comparable with return airfares which start around 700 francs.

Freight traffic has been running through the Channel tunnel for some months since it was formally opened on May 6, a year behind schedule, by Britain's Queen Elizabeth and French President Francois Mitterrand.

But beset by technical snags Le Shuttle, a train carrying passenger cars between the ports of Calais and Folkestone, has yet to begin, having missed the lucrative summer season.

So this is the first opportunity for the general public to use the \$15-billion tunnel, the first dry link from Britain to the continent since the ice age.

The prompt departure from Paris will be a relief to both railways and especially to the privately-owned tunnel operator, Eurotunnel S.A./PLC, which has struggled financially for years with huge cost overruns and delays, forcing it to raise huge amounts of new cash as recently as May.

Its shares slumped last month when a Eurostar due to carry hundreds of journalists in a fanfare trial run from London to Paris broke down before it could start.

Since then other private runs have run into trouble, including another media outing that stopped under the channel on its way to Brussels and a train carrying the heads of British Rail and Eurotunnel which halted for two hours near Calais.

Recession, rise of yen cut Japanese shipping business

TOKYO (AFP) — The five biggest Japanese shipping companies have reported falls in turnover in the six months to September caused by recession and the strength of the yen.

The top shipping company, Nippon Yusen KK said that its pre-tax profit had fallen by 1.4 per cent from the figure a year earlier to 3.57 billion yen (\$36 million) on sales which had fallen by 3.2 per cent to 259.6 billion yen.

The company blamed "the high value of the yen, intensified competition and a decline in the volume of automobile shipments."

For the year to March 1995, the company forecast a pre-tax profit of seven billion yen sales of 520 billion yen.

"In the second half of fiscal 1994, the high value of the yen will probably continue to depress our freight revenues," the company said, adding that it would continue streamlining in coming six months.

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd. said its pre-tax profit plunged 70.3 per cent to 808 million yen on revenue of 216.4 billion yen, down 3.4 per cent.

The company said revenue from liners on Asian routes picked up, helped by brisk shipments of raw materials and chemicals goods. But "the sharp appreciation of the yen considerably eroded such gains."

For the year to March next year, Mitsui O.S.K. forecast a pre-tax profit of two billion yen on sales of 440 billion yen.

Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha Ltd. said it posted a pre-tax profit of 169 million yen, reversing a pre-tax loss of 1.4 billion yen a year earlier. But Kawasaki said its sales had fallen by 0.1 per cent to 169 billion yen.

"Capital investment in Japan remained stagnant, and the sharp appreciation of the yen dragged on the speed of recovery," the company said. "But in the second half, the economy is likely to recover, backed by continued expansion in the Asian economy."

For the full year, Kawasaki forecast a profit of 700 million yen on sales of 335 billion yen.

Navis Line Ltd. said it had generated a pre-tax profit of 364 million yen, reversing a loss of 465 million yen for the same period last year.

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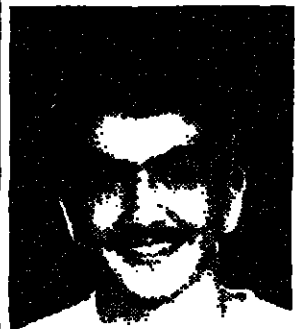
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Orthodoxi, Jazireh battle for 2nd place; Watani, Homentmen, Hussein lose

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Former champions Al Orthodoxi play the second of their matches in the First Division Basketball Championship Tuesday when they meet Al Jazireh in the most crucial match that will provide a clear indicator of this year's second placed team.

Al Orthodoxi played their first match of the competition Sunday, defeating



Jazireh's Ghaith Ezzabi

Homentmen 116-36, the first half ending 67-24.

For the first time in the Kingdom's basketball competition, another team has entered the race for the top two places usually occupied by Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxi.

While Al Ahli seem set to retain their third consecutive title, Al Jazireh have a valid chance to clinch the runner up spot this season taking advantage of the transitional phase Al Orthodoxi has been passing through since the retirement of many older players especially Murad Barakat, who is now the head coach.

The former champions who dominated the Kingdom's basketball scene throughout the eighties before losing the crown to all-time rivals Al Ahli in 1990, last won the title in 1991, however they enter this year's competition with the younger lineup of players who might face the prospect of losing their second place ranking.

In other matches this week, Al Jalil put an end to Al Watani's ambitions of an advanced position when

they scored a 90-72 win, the first half ending 45-32.

Al Jalil seem set to stay in fourth place after losing to Al Jazireh 73-69. However their standing will become clearer after they play Al Hussein and Al Orthodoxi in upcoming matches.

Meanwhile, Al Hussein who had finished sixth last season, will have to win their next two matches against Homentmen and Al Watani, in order to avoid relegation.

Al Hussein put up a big effort before losing 94-76 to Al Jazireh in their latest match.

Although Al Jazireh managed to end the first half 41-40, Al Hussein's players gave their opponents a hard time and took the lead 45-41 before both teams tied at 50-50 and 64-64.

However, Al Jazireh's all round better preparation paid off as they took the lead and expanded the gap from 81-72 to win the match 94-76.

Al Ahli and Al Jazireh now top the standings with 6 points each with an unbeaten streak. However, Al Ahli have the best scoring



Orthodoxi's Hial Barakat record after crushing all opponents by scoring over the 100 point mark and are in first place on score difference.

Al Jalil, one of two teams from Irbid, moved up to third place for now following two wins over Homentmen and Al Watani and a defeat to Al Jazireh.

Al Watani have begun to drop in the standings after three defeats and only one win, while Al Orthodoxi are in sixth place as they have only played one match so far and are tied with 2 points with Al Hussein who are now seventh.

STANDINGS

	P	W	L	SP	SA	Pts
Ahli	3	3	-	384	147	6
Jazireh	3	3	-	258	213	6
Jalil	3	2	1	255	205	5
Watani	4	1	3	281	360	5
Homentmen	4	-	4	171	421	4
Orthodoxi	1	1	-	116	36	2
Hussein	2	-	2	130	213	2

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Snowboard's Olympic campaign will spark avalanche

KARUIZAWA, Japan (AFP) — A drive to make snowboarding an Olympic sport is further weighing down organizers of the 1998 Winter Games already faced with financial troubles and corruption allegations.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has given the Nagano Olympic Organising Committee (NOC) a year to decide whether to add the trendy ski-resort sport to the Olympic programme.

The NOC is worried because the powerful IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch is seen as the man pushing the snowboard case.

Nagano's problems started in August when Samaranch suddenly urged the Japanese resort to put snowboard on the Games bill.

The Spaniard responsible for making the Olympics a huge commercial success, senses snowboard's potential as a television package, IOC sources say.

Snowboard's growing popularity with the affluent youth market in Europe and North America has made it a growth industry with annual equipment sales of several billion dollars.

An immediate alert was sounded with fears that an avalanche of debt will bury Nagano, as it has many other Olympic hosts.

The programme for the last Olympics of the century has been fixed at 64 events in seven sports — with an estimated 3,000 competitors and officials.

Inflation has already forced the NOC to push up the operating budget of 76 billion yen (\$760 million). At the same time sponsors have been frightened off because of Japan's slow recovery from recession.

The mountain city of 350,000, famous for its 1,300-year-old Buddhist temple, still has to build 12 of the 20 Olympic venues.

Construction costs have rocketed from an initial 140 billion yen, half to be borne by central government and half by the local administration.

English game loses sheen in November nightmare

LONDON (R) — Relegation will come to four clubs in the English Premier League during the long, warm days of the season's end — but the dark fear of the drop has already struck hard on the cold nights of November.

In a flurry of action, three high-profile managers have been sacked and another has quit as one of the brightest starts to an English season in years loses its gloss.

Ossie Ardiles was the first to go, sacked by Tottenham Hotspur. Mike Walker at Everton and Ron Atkinson at Aston Villa followed with Gerry Francis resigning at Queens Park Rangers.

Yet in August and September, the talk of excited fans, as the World Cup spirit of adventure lived on, was of such as Jurgen Klinsmann, Ilie Dumitrescu, Eric Cantona and Manchester United.

Then in the first 10 days of November, amid the bombshell accusations of match fixing against veteran goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, the managerial musical chairs added insult to the injury of poor results in Europe.

In addition, there had been the allegations about England coach Terry Venables' financial dealings at Tottenham, although Britain's serious fraud office is not

investigating.

All in all, an extraordinary spell for English soccer.

On the playing field, Tottenham may not have to fear relegation just yet. But chairman Alan Sugar's ambition to make Spurs as great as Manchester United took a knock when Ardiles's side crashed out of the League Cup to struggling Notts County, losing their only hope of European competition next season.

At Everton, Walker looked like turning the corner in his struggle to pull his side off the bottom of the table when the Merseyside club's new chairman, Peter Johnson, booted him out.

Aston Villa had also sunk dangerously close to the bottom under Atkinson when chairman Doug Ellis decided enough was enough.

QPR were apparently unhappy with Francis, offering former star Rodney Marsh the job of chief executive without first consulting him.

Francis resigned immediately in disgust. It was rejected then eventually accepted at a time when his side, after some poor results, looked to be on the upgrade.

Now he could step into the vacancy at Spurs.

Former Arsenal, Inter Milan and Ireland star Liam Brady, who manages Second

Division Brighton after getting the sack at Glasgow Celtic, said: "It's becoming like Italy, especially the media interest, with even the quality broadsheets getting involved."

Brady added: "If a chairman keeps chopping and changing he might obtain success, but if you look at the successful clubs, most have had stability."

Manchester United, Arsenal and Leeds United, who between them have won the league title five times in the last six years, have the three longest-serving managers in the Premier League in Alex Ferguson, George Graham and Howard Wilkinson.

They are the only managers in the top flight appointed before 1991.

Fewer chairmen or club boards seem prepared in the modern game to give a manager time to build a side.

They want instant results and fear seems to have set in this season in particular, with the Premier League being cut from 22 to 20 teams for next season.

Only one thing could calm their nerves, serious talk of a Second Division to the Premier League with a breakaway by sides in the current football league's First Division.

Becker, Agassi revivals add spice to Frankfurt finale

FRANKFURT (R) — The revivals of Boris Becker and Andre Agassi, two of the biggest characters in tennis, have added extra spice to the year-ending ATP World Championship starting on Tuesday.

Becker and Agassi both started the year down the rankings but have bounced back with some superb form in recent months and now seem capable of challenging for the number one berth held by American Pete Sampras.

The return of the towering, acrobatic German and long-haired, rock-loving American is timely for a sport worried that it is losing fans because

of a lack of strong personalities of the ilk of former stars John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors.

Agassi started the year in 24th position and with his wrist in plaster. But victory in the U.S. Open and a defeat of Sampras on his way to the prestigious Paris Open title earlier this month boosted Agassi to second place in the rankings.

The 24-year-old American has been made to work hard at his consistency by the hardened professional Brad Gilbert, who has harnessed Agassi's talent and tamed his taste for junk food. The U.S. Open champion looks lean and fit.

"Everything I do out there on court are things that I am capable of day after day," he said. "Quite honestly, I don't feel that I could have ever gotten to number one in the world had I not gone to Brad."

Last year Becker dropped out of the top 10 for the first time since he won Wimbledon as a teenager in 1985. But he has found new motivation since he returned from a break from tennis at the beginning of the year while his wife gave birth to their first child.

Helped by Agassi's first coach Nick Bolleteri, Becker, who turns 27 later this month, has rediscovered the determination which used to make him a dominant force on fast surfaces. He proved his form on the indoor courts by winning last month's Stockholm Open.

"He recognises that he has a mission," Bolleteri said. "He can still hit shots that nobody believes he can possibly reach, he is out there to prove something to himself. When he goes into the locker-room he is the proud Boris Becker again. His opponents feel that."

The Frankfurt festhalle could see some fascinating clashes on the carpeted indoor court as the top eight players in the world come together in a tournament which used to be known as the Masters and took place in New York.

The eight players play round-robin matches in two groups with the top two in each group advancing to the semifinals.

ATP men's ranking

1. Pete Sampras (USA)
2. Andre Agassi (USA)
3. Sergi Bruguera (Spain)
4. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia)
5. Boris Becker (Germany)
6. Michael Chang (USA)
7. Alberto Berasategui (Spain)
8. Stefan Edberg (Sweden)
9. Michael Stich (Germany)
10. Todd Martin (USA)
11. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia)
12. Wayne Ferreira (S. Africa)
13. Jim Courier (USA)
14. Marc Rosset (Switzerland)
15. Andrey Medvedev (Ukraine)

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49ers upset Dallas Cowboys

SAN FRANCISCO (APF) — San Francisco, prevented from reaching the last two Super Bowls by eventual champions Dallas, finally got the better of the Cowboys Sunday.

Steve Young connected with Jerry Rice for a 57-yard touchdown pass that broke a tie in the third quarter. But it was the 49er defence that made the difference in the 21-14 victory.

San Francisco veteran Merton Hanks intercepted two Troy Aikman passes and new defensive signing Deion Sanders picked off another.

In addition, former Cowboys defenceman Key Norton, Rickey Jackson and Gary Plummer combined to hold Dallas running back Emmitt Smith to just 78 yards as San Francisco won their fifth straight game to take their record to 8-2, tied with Dallas at the top of the National Conference.

If they remain tied at the end of the season, the victory will give the 49ers the home advantage in the play-offs, but Hanks said it was too soon to think about the post-season.

On the other side of the country, New England Patriots quarterback Drew Bledsoe snapped out of a slump in dramatic fashion, breaking the National Football League record for attempted passes with 70. The previous record was 68, set by George Blanda in 1964.

Bledsoe also completed a record number, 45, as the Patriots beat the Minnesota Vikings in overtime 26-20.

The two teams combined for a record for passing attempts, 112, and their combined total of completions, 71, also improved on the old record.

The Cincinnati Bengals, who lost their first

eight games of the season, won their second in a row, a 34-31 victory over Houston.

Bengals quarterback Jeff Blake threw three touchdown passes then injured his ankle. But after Houston took a 31-24 lead he hopped off the X-ray table and lead a comeback.

Overall, the day's action was even more bruising than usual.

Cincinnati's Steve Broussard and Denver's Derek Russell suffered neck injuries and were hospitalised.

Broussard complained of numbness in his arms and legs, but was improving Sunday night.

Russell was hurt making a tackle in the 17-10 victory over Seattle. Denver coach Wade Phillips said Russell's X-rays were encouraging.

In other games, New Orleans beat Atlanta 33-32, thanks to Morten Andersen's sixth game-winning field goal.

San Diego took their record to 8-2, level with Cleveland atop the American Conference, with a 14-13 victory over Kansas City.

Cleveland broke Philadelphia's seven-game home winning streak with a 26-7 victory.

The Chicago Bears used a sneaky play from field goal formation to score a crucial touchdown in a 17-14 victory over Miami, which dropped the Dolphins to 7-3.

The Los Angeles Raiders beat the Los Angeles Rams 20-17, Arizona beat the New York Giants 10-9 and Detroit beat Tampa Bay 14-9.

Indianapolis and Washington had the week off.

Denmark face Spain in Group 2 qualifier

LONDON (R) — Champions Denmark will be hoping to gain revenge after four crushing defeats by Spain in major matches in the last decade when they meet in Seville in their European Championship Group Two qualifier Wednesday.

The jinx began in 1984 when Spain beat Denmark on penalties in the European Championship semifinals in France.

Since then Spain have won in the second round of the 1986 World Cup finals, the opening round of the 1988 European Championship finals and again in their final World Cup qualifier exactly a year ago this week.

That defeat cost Denmark a place in the finals in the United States this year.

Now the two clash again with Spain leading the group with six points from two matches and the Danes second on four.

Denmark include one newcomer in their squad — Ronnie Ekelund, who has made a

superb start to his English League career at Southampton.

Another British-based player, striker Brian Laudrup of Glasgow Rangers, should be fit after recovering from a groin injury.

Laudrup summed up the feeling among the Danes when he said on Monday: "The Spaniards have a psychological advantage over us after their many victories, but we've got our self-confidence back after beating Belgium in our last qualifier."

Spain trained behind closed doors at the weekend, but word is that coach Javier Clemente's main preoccupation is how to contain the menace of playmaker Michael Laudrup, currently the inspiration of Real Madrid in the Spanish League.

The Spain-Denmark match is one of three, in which Group leaders and second-placed teams meet each

other.

In Group Four, leaders Croatia meet second-placed Italy in Palermo with Roberto Baggio returning to the national team for the first time since his penalty miss condemned the Italians to defeat in the World Cup final.

The Netherlands have been hit by injuries before their top-of-the-table match against Group Five leaders the Czech Republic.

Internazionale striker Dennis Bergkamp and Ajax winger Marc Overmars are out and Ajax striker Patrick Kluivert is expected to replace Bergkamp and make his international debut.

France desperately need a win in Poland to keep alive any realistic hopes of qualifying for the finals due to be held in England in two years time. France are fourth in group one behind Romania, Israel and Poland after two 0-0 draws.

Sampras edges Larsson to retain EC title

Huber downs Pierce in Philadelphia Slims

ANTWERP (R) — World No. 1 Pete Sampras edged out big-serving Swede Magnus Larsson 7-6, 6-4 to win the European Community Championship for the second successive year Sunday.

It was Sampras's ninth title of the year but his first final — and victory — since winning Wimbledon early in July.

The 23-year-old American has been plagued by injuries since Wimbledon and his Antwerp victory was a welcome morale-booster for next week's season-ending ATP finals in Frankfurt.

He also became the first player to hold the number one ranking for an entire year since Ivan Lendl in 1987. He is also the first player to win nine tournaments in one year since Lendl won 10 events in 1989.

Sampras, who won the first-set tiebreak 7-5, converted his third matchpoint to seal the clash after one hour 24 minutes.

Sampras's victory also brought him one step closer to winning a diamond-studded golden trophy shaped like a racket, which is on offer to anyone who wins the Antwerp event three times in five years.

Larsson, now ranked 22nd in the ATP Tour standings, will break into the top 20 for the first time following his showing in Antwerp, ATP officials said.

"It feels good to be in the winner's circle again," said Sampras, adding: "It's been such a frustrating summer... I just have to put that behind me and finish off the year as strong as I can and winning here just gives me confidence going into Frankfurt."

He felt a slower court would make the game more attractive for the Antwerp crowd.

"The court here is kind of hit and miss, a bit like grass court tennis," said Sampras. "I don't mind playing on it but something slower is much more fair," it's something on an equaliser."

The first set was a close affair with games going to serve until the tiebreak. Both



World No. 1 Pete Sampras hits a forehand during a match at the EC championship (AFP photo)

players each saved one breakpoint, relying heavily on their service prowess.

Games also went to serve in the second set until Sampras broke the deadlock in the seventh.

Larsson, who won the ATP indoor tournaments in Zaragoza and Toulouse this year, saved two matchpoints but hit long on the third.

The European Community Championship wins promotion next year when it becomes one of the "super nine" tournaments — the biggest one-week events. Total prize money will be boosted to

\$2.09 million and the draw raised to 48 players from 32.

Huber wins Slims of Philadelphia

In Philadelphia, Anke Huber played the best set of her career and hung on to defeat Mary Pierce 6-0, 6-7 (4-7), 7-5 for the championship of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Huber nearly blew a 4-0 lead in the third set before she settled down for her third victory of the season. The 19-year-old German won the final two games in the third

set and broke Pierce's serve with a forehand to win the tournament.

"She pushed me," Huber said. "She was always there, and she never gave up. I just tried to play my game, and it worked out."

Huber, who earned \$150,000, has won two tournaments and is ranked 13th in the world despite not having a coach since September. She also beat Pierce in the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix in Germany last month.

Huber had the most difficult route to the final. She had three-set wins over Jennifer Capriati and Lisa Raymond, beat Kimberly Po in two sets and Gabriela Sabatini in three sets before facing the second-seeded Pierce.

Pierce, ranked fifth, earned \$67,500 for second place. She is winless in five finals this year, and has not beaten Huber in three career matches.

Pierce hammered a 97 mph (155 kmph) ace and won three straight games to make it 5-5 in the third set. She fought off three match points earlier in the set before Huber put her away.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH GEAR SHARP & TANNAN WRECK

OUT FOR THE COUNT

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ K J 5 2

♥ 7 3

♦ A J 4

♣ K Q 8 3

EAST

♠ 9 8

♥ K Q J 8 4

♦ Q 8 7 6 3

♣ A 9 7 5 2

SOUTH

♠ A Q 10 6 4

♥ 9

♦ K 10 9 5

♣ 4

The bidding:

North East South West

1 ♠ 1 ♥ 1 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♣

Alchemists for centuries searched for a way to turn base metals into gold. Their bridge counterparts have long sought an infallible method for locating a missing queen. Neither is likely to succeed, although bridge players have the better chance if they count out the hand.

North's hand was borderline for an invitational jump raise to three spades and the good four-card support decided the issue. It did not North-South to a good game quickly and easily.

West led the ace of hearts and continued with the ten, overtaken by East's jack. A trump was returned. With a sure loser in the use of clubs, declarer's problem was readily apparent—to locate the queen of diamonds, so it could be successfully finessed. The fly in the ointment was the finessing could be taken against either defender.

Even so, declarer made short shrift of the hand. The trump return was won with the jack and a second round was drawn, ending in the closed hand. Next came a club to the queen which lost to the ace and, when East cried with a club to the king, South discarded a diamond.

Two club ruffs sandwiched around a heart ruff provided declarer with all the information needed. East had started with two spades, five hearts (from the overall and West's play to the first two tricks), five clubs (West had shown out on the fourth club) and, therefore, could hold only one diamond. So declarer cashed the king of diamonds and, when no queen appeared, confidently finessed the jack to land the game.

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	The film which won seven Oscars IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45		Eric Roberts & Jeff Fahey in FREESALL Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		The academy awards film THE PIANO Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD '2' SPEED Shows: 3:15, 5:00		Presents "Water is a Gift of Life" A family and children play produced and directed by: Akram Abul Ragheb Daily at 10 a.m. For reservations call tel.: 618274 - 618275	Announces a temporary suspension of the performance Qirbeh Makhzouga "Punctured Bag" We will announce the resumption of the play in its new form later on.	Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday is the theatre's holiday.

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel, PLO raise 400 foreign observers

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have asked Australia, Finland, Norway, Turkey and two European states to send a total of 400 observers to Gaza to oversee autonomy, a spokesman here said Monday. "The request was made in writing by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath in Cairo on Oct. 23," a foreign ministry spokesman said. The text was sent to the foreign ministers of the four countries and the European Union requesting it name two more countries. No date was set for the deployment of the observers who would report back on implementation of the declaration of principles for autonomy, said the spokesman.

Israel allows more people into Hebron shrine

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel will increase from 300 to 450 the number of both Muslims and Jews allowed to pray at the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron at any time, an army spokesman said Monday. New security measures to keep members of the two religions apart had proved successful during a trial reopening of the site last week following the February slaughter of more than 30 Muslims by a Jewish settler. Troops would allow 450 Jews and 450 Muslims into the compound from Tuesday. "The army will continue to re-evaluate the position," the spokesman said. Hundreds of Palestinians prayed in the street on Friday when the army enforced the 300 limit. Only about 450 settlers live in Hebron surrounded by 120,000 Palestinians.

Convict denies Iraq link with Bush plot

KUWAIT (AFP) — An Iraqi sentenced to death here for an alleged plot to murder former U.S. President George Bush said Monday the Iraqi intelligence service was not involved in the assassination bid. Wali Abdul Hadi Al Ghazali, 37, was given the death penalty at the end of a trial in June by the state security court. "The Iraqi intelligence services have nothing to do with my decision to assassinate George Bush" during a visit to Kuwait in April 1993, Mr. Ghazali said before an appeal hearing on the case. "I am an Iraqi citizen who came to assassinate an American citizen who destroyed my country and killed by parents," he added. The appeal court decided to postpone hearings until Dec. 19 so that defence lawyers could present their case. On Oct. 17 Mr. Ghazali said 16 members of his family were killed in a U.S. airstrike during the January-February 1991 Gulf war fought by a U.S.-led coalition to free Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

Atlantis ends 11-day mission

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE (AFP) — The space shuttle Atlantis landed in California, ending its 11-day mission to measure the ozone layer. The shuttle, which touched down at 7:34 a.m. local time 1534 GMT, was diverted from the landing strip at Cape Canaveral, Florida where tropical storm Gordon was sending up gusty winds. "Welcome home. It's a great way to end '94. Beautiful mission," mission control told the six astronauts who crewed the final shuttle flight for the year. Atlantis collected data from monitors and a \$35 million German satellite to study deterioration of the Earth's protective ozone layer.

Sudanese singer's murder raises fears

KHARTOUM (R) — The murder of a popular singer in Sudan, where Muslim fundamentalists massacred 16 worshippers at a mosque earlier this year, has raised fears that Islamic militants might have resumed operations. Khajali Osman died after a young man walked into the office of the singer's union in Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city, and stabbed him. Two other prominent artists were wounded. Initial reports of the killing suggested the murderer was insane but a Sudanese newspaper reported that the attacker, Wedatallah Saleem, belonged to the Islamic Sufi group. Major-General Izzeddine Gandour, commander of the police force in Khartoum state, denied that Saleem belonged to a religious group. "The man is an ordinary uneducated person who does not belong to any religious or political group," Gen. Gandour said on state television on Sunday. He said doctors were assessing the attacker's mental state and he assured artists they were not targeted by any group.

Bank officials held in Sudan currency case

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese police have arrested several bank officials for violating regulations governing free foreign currency accounts, Sudan's state-owned Al Ingaz Al Watani (national salvation) newspaper said on Monday. It said bank officials in both the private and public sectors had engaged in illegal activities including opening fake currency accounts and buying hard currency without supporting documents. The officials would face trial after investigations were completed, the newspaper said. People convicted of illegal currency dealings face a maximum sentence of three years in jail.

Lebanon seizes \$5 million worth of cocaine

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese police and Syrian intelligence agents seized 100 kilograms of cocaine at Beirut port on Monday, police said. The drugs were found in boxes in a container of blue jeans that arrived from Colombia. Brigadier Selim Sleem, head of the police anti-drug squad, told reporters the cocaine worth about \$5 million was shipped to Lebanon for processing. One man was arrested, he said. The Beirut government, with Syria's help, began a campaign two years ago against the cultivation and trafficking of drugs. It has eliminated drug crops grown in the eastern Bekaa Valley during the 1975-90 civil war, but many small processing factories are still believed to exist in the area.

Greenpeace flagship to visit Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Rainbow Warrior, flagship of the environmental group Greenpeace, arrives here Tuesday on its first ever trip to Lebanon with a team of 20 experts on board for talks on ways to protect the Mediterranean Sea. The team will be headed by Mario Donato, coordinator of a project for the Mediterranean, and will meet with representatives of Lebanese non-governmental groups, Shadi Hamade of the Lebanese environmental group Green Line told AFP. The Rainbow Warrior, which is on a Mediterranean tour, will berth for three days at Beirut port. "The main objective of Greenpeace is to outline a plan of action for the Mediterranean and to cooperate with the non-governmental groups," Mr. Hamade said.

Reconstruction begins of inferno town

ASUIT, Egypt (AFP) — The first stone has been laid to rebuild the fire disaster town of Dronka in southern Egypt, officials said Monday. Work started Sunday on a new neighbourhood close to the one destroyed on November 2 by a sea of flames which spilled through the town from an oil depot fire, killing 529 people. Nearly 500 houses built over four to six months for 5,000 people left homeless by the disaster, the officials said. Floods and fire caused by the storm a fortnight ago killed a total of 611 people in Egypt, and left 100,000 homeless, according to police and hospitals. A special advisor to the U.N. Centre for Human Settlement on Monday started assessing the damage caused by the flood, the U.N. information centre in Cairo said in a statement.



KING'S BIRTHDAY: Students march through an Amman street on Monday waving national flags and holding pictures of His Majesty King Hussein on the occasion of his Majesty's 59th birthday (see page one) (Photo by Yusef Alami)

Farhat killer gets reduced jail term

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti who shot dead a Lebanese man and his son in a notorious Gulf war-era murder won a reduced term of 15 years on Monday when the top appeal court confirmed a lower court's ruling overturning his life sentence. Defence lawyer Khaled Al Nighaimshi told reporters after the court of cassation hearing he would seek the release of murderer Jaber Al Ameer on the grounds both that he was ill and that his post-war pursuit of alleged Iraqi collaborators was "heroic".

A criminal court jailed Ameer for life in 1993 for killing Ismail Farhat and his son Osama in 1991 and for trying to kill his daughter Naimat. Ameer was acquitted of raping Ms. Naimat. An appeal court later reduced his term to 15 years, arguing post-war circumstances, when the government remained in exile, were "ambiguous and dark" and cited Ms. Ameer's alleged belief that he had "a national duty" to attack alleged collaborators.

Ameer burst into the Farhat's home on March 2, 1991, a few days after the emirate's Gulf war liberation, saying he would kill all family members because he believed they had sheltered Iraqi troops during the occupation. He tied up and shot dead the two men, allegedly twice raped Naimat and sprayed shots at her from an automatic rifle as he walked out of the house.

Naimat Farhat sustained severe head wounds from the bullets and is partly paralysed. She now uses a wheelchair.

Ameer was an interior ministry official who in the post-war period assumed the role of a policeman responsible for security in his district. Lawyer Mohammad Al Enizi, representing Naimat Farhat, who now lives in the United States, told reporters he would sue Kuwaiti authorities for compensation. "We will not hesitate in claiming from any party, official or non-official," he said. Ameer sustained a spine injury in a car accident days after the killings that has left him partly paralysed.

"When the percentage of handicap is high, which is 55 per cent in Jaber's case, the interior ministry undersecretary is required by law to free him for health reasons," lawyer Nighaimshi said. He added an additional reason for Ameer's early release was that the state should recognise that the killings had occurred during what he called Ameer's heroic pursuit of collaborators.

The Farhat family, which had lived in Kuwait for 30 years, denies it collaborated with the Iraqis.

"The reason for the committing of the crime was the pursuit of collaborators after the invasion, and what we take from this ruling is that Jaber was in effect in the service of the state of Kuwait."

"Consequently this requires the state, upon the authority of the interior minister, to release him for his heroic acts," lawyer Nighaimshi told the reporters.

He added, however, that he recognised that during the period after the war "there was no state, as we normally understand that term, having authority or control."

Israel okays expansion of a W. Bank settlement

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel's housing ministry has given the green light for the building of 1,050 housing units in the West Bank settlement of Betar, officials said Monday.

Construction is already underway and 250 units have been sold in the last two weeks at the site south of Jerusalem, said the officials who refused to be named. The population of Betar was expected to double from today's 1,200 families within the next two years to a total of 12,000 people.

However, the government refused for the moment to grant permission to start building a whole new settlement which would be called Ramat Kadron, further to the south near Bethlehem.

The ministry admitted in September that thousands more houses would be put up along the West Bank border with Israel, effectively ending a building freeze announced by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin shortly after he returned to power in June 1992.

Mr. Rabin halted new housing projects in the territories but agreed to allow the completion of 11,000 units already under construction.

The number of settlers on the West Bank and Gaza went up by 10 per cent to 116,000 by the end of 1993, according to official statistics.

Somali warlords urge U.N. to reconsider buildup

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Somali warlords are urging the U.N. Security Council to reconsider plans for a military buildup to protect U.N. forces withdrawing from Somalia against attack.

General Mohammad Farah Aided's Somali National Alliance (SNA) and allied factions said in a statement they were alarmed by talk of the need for thousands of new U.N. troops to support the withdrawal.

"We are alarmed to note the hysteria and polemics drummed up in certain quarters about the absolute necessity of thousands of additional U.N. troops to come to Somalia in order to enable U.N. troops to depart from Somalia," the statement said. "This could open the road for an unending progression of troops in and out... it breeds unnecessary tension and distrust."

It undermines our efforts to forestall an unnecessary response to an uncalculated intrusion on our land," it said. "We call on the Security Council to re-evaluate the situation more effectively. Additional troops will create more instability and distrust of foreign intentions in Somalia."

"We also call upon the states of the Horn of Africa to become more engaged in the process of a UNOSOM withdrawal."

The factions allied with Gen. Aided's SNA are holding what they bill as a national reconciliation conference but their main enemies are absent from the talks. U.N. officials have said they could spark renewed conflict if they form a new government.

The U.S. ambassador to Somalia said last week a Western-led armada was being prepared to help pluck the 15,000-strong UNOSOM force from Somalia in case they had to fight militias on the way out.

"Some of the Somalis may be hoping they can loot enough of UNOSOM's

The percentage increase was down on 15 per cent in 1991 and 12 per cent in 1992.

The 160,000 Israelis in Arab East Jerusalem are not counted in the figures.

Settler organisations say colonisation has continued apace this year and more than 130,000 Jews now live in the occupied territories.

About two million Palestinians live in Gaza and the West Bank as well as some 160,000 in East Jerusalem.

Israeli Television reported Sunday 11 out of 17 Israeli ministers support the evacuation of small isolated Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank when the Israeli army redeployed in the region.

Seven Labour ministers and the four belonging to the left-wing Meretz party would favour such an evacuation, according to a survey carried out by Israel's Channel Two.

Supporters included Agriculture Minister Yaakov Tzur, usually considered to be hawkish, and Police Minister Moshe Shalom.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was among those opposing such a move.

Under the accord signed with the Palestinians, Jewish settlements are to remain during the five-year interim period of Palestinian self-rule.

The survey did not include Mr. Rabin.

The army is due to rede-

ploy away from Palestinian towns in the West Bank before elections to an autonomy council are held, but no date has been set.

In Cairo, an international Muslim organisation warned Monday that there would be no peace in the Middle East if Israel tampered with the demographic balance of Jerusalem to favour Jews at the expense of Arabs.

The Islamic Council of Dawaa and Relief, headed by Gad Al Haq Ali Gad Al Haq, the grand shaykh of Sunni Islam's highest institution, Al Azhar, denounced Israeli efforts to alter the Holy City's demography.

"The council rejects... the Israeli administrative pressure to diminish the Arab Muslim and Christian population and bring in great numbers of Jews," it said.

The council also criticised the construction of Jewish settlements around the city "with the aim of determining Jerusalem's destiny."

"If Israel continues its stubborn position on the Jerusalem issue, peace will be impossible, and the Middle East will remain a region of tension, generation after generation," it warned.

"The solution for the Jerusalem issue is to restore its sovereignty to its Arab people who understand the holiness of its sacred sites."

Freed Algerian hijack passengers return home

TUNIS (Agencies) — Freed passengers from an Algerian civil aircraft hijacked to Spain at the weekend returned on Monday to Algiers, Algerian state radio said.

All 38 passengers and four crew were released by the three hijackers who gave themselves up after diverting a regular domestic flight between Algiers and Oran to the Sahara desert.

Initially the hijackers threatened to blow up the plane if their demands, which included liberating Algeria's political prisoners and resuming elections interrupted there in 1992, were not met.

None of the passengers and crew was hurt. They were freed late on Sunday just over eight hours after the plane landed at Palma's Son Sant Joan airport.

Algerian radio said the hijack was a warning to strengthen controls at airports. The transport ministry said it had set up an inquiry into possible failures in airport security controls.

The three were waiting on Monday to know if they will be repatriated or allowed to stay in Spain.

Their fate was being debated by the Spanish judicial authorities, but it appeared their best hope to avoid repatriation would be to stand trial in Spain.

Airport sources said the hijackers had asked not to be repatriated to Algeria because they were certain to be killed.

The three men, in their twenties, were armed only with a knife and had no explosives. A shoe-box in which they claimed to have a bomb contained only a coffee-grinder.

It was the second Algerian plane to have been hijacked to Spain this year, and at one point looked as if it might turn into tragedy as the hijackers threatened to blow it up.

In the end, the three men

Turkey starts Aegean wargames

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey launched military manoeuvres in the Aegean Sea Monday amid tension with Greece which in two days could extend its territorial waters from six to 12 nautical miles.

Greece is due to start its own exercises in the area this week despite a call from Washington to the two countries to reshuffle the operations and the dispatching of a U.S. cruiser to the area.

Turkey is not a signatory to the international convention allowing Greece to extend its sea limits and has said that if Greece enforces them it will consider the move a warlike act.

The Turkish exercises, codenamed Seawolf 7-94, will involve sea and air units and continue until Nov. 23, Turkish military sources said.

Greek manoeuvres, called Niritos 94, are scheduled to start during the same period, also in international waters and airspace around the Aegean Sea.

Washington announced Friday it was dispatching the cruiser Cape Saint George to the Aegean to ensure an easing in tensions between the two countries, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies since 1952.

U.S. President Bill Clinton asked Turkey and Greece to defuse bilateral tensions by rescheduling their coinciding war games in the Aegean, the Anatolia news agency said Sunday.

The two states have indulged in a war of words in recent months over the sea rights issue. Greece has said it has a sovereign right to extend its territorial waters when it deems fit. However, it stressed Saturday it would not move to extend its territorial waters on Nov. 16.

The row came to a head after reports last month that Athens has deployed Exocet missiles on some of its islands in the southeast Aegean.

"Turkey will never accept the Aegean becoming a Greek lake and has been repeating this for 25 years. I hope that Greece will not proceed with a fait accompli on Nov. 16 concerning the (extension to) 12 miles," Turkish newspapers quoted President Suleyman Demirel as saying.

COLUMN

Bush, Gorbachev steal the show at conference

RIMINI, Italy (R) — George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev, who as leaders of the United States and former Soviet Union helped bury the cold war, stole the show at an international brain-storming session for statesmen. Bathed in a sea of television lights, the two leaders who presided over the fall of the Berlin Wall and the re-unification of Germany embraced each other warmly at the gathering, in the Adriatic resort town of Rimini. Mr. Bush, handed the 1994 "Man of peace" award by the Pio Manzù Institute which organises the annual event, praised Mr. Gorbachev, the last president of the Soviet Union before it fell apart. "It was a pleasure working with him," said the former Republican president. Mr. Gorbachev returned the compliment, saying that without Mr. Bush and his predecessor Ronald Reagan, East and West could not have ended 45 years of tension. During the conference, Mr. Gorbachev said the West should avoid closing itself off to the countries of the former Soviet block through the creation of large isolationist trading blocks. He repeated calls for a European regional security system open to both the West and the former Eastern block. "We are increasingly heading towards regional (security) systems and so we should create a European one," he said.

The "woman of peace" award went to Hanan Ashrawi, the commissioner-general for the Palestinian Independent Committee for Citizens' Rights.

Band plays as Ireland crumbles

DUBLIN (R) — As the Irish government hunched towards collapse, the band played on. The Glean Miller legacy to be precise, a 15-piece band playing in a Dublin hotel where the Labour Party was agonising over whether or not to quit the two-year-old ruling coalition. Musicians and dancers seemed unaware that the government's future was being decided, literally, over their heads. Meeting in the Oak Room above a typical Sunday afternoon tea dance, Labour Party leader Dick Spring and his fellow MPs could clearly hear the strains of La bamba, New York, New York and other dance tunes. Downstairs more than 100 couples danced the foxtrot and other traditional ballroom steps to a series of show tunes. "What's going on?" One elderly dancer asked journalists, as he went to the bar to collect drinks for himself and his chignon-clad wife. Told of the crisis talks, he said: "Well, that's not going to stop me dancing. To hell with them."

Scots favour monarchy but are critical of Charles

LONDON (R) — Most Scots support the British monarchy but many are critical of Prince Charles and think that he and his estranged wife Princess Diana should divorce, a poll published on Monday showed. The System Three Scotland poll for the Herald newspaper in Glasgow revealed that the Princess Royal, Queen Elizabeth's daughter, is Scotland's most popular royal with an 81 per cent approval rating, followed by her mother at 77 per cent. "Fewer than half think he (Charles) should become king when the time comes and almost four out of five believe that the monarchy's state income should be cut," the newspaper said. Seventy-seven per cent of the 1,044 adults who were questioned supported the monarchy but younger people aged between 18-24 were less convinced (49 per cent) than those 55 years and older (84 per cent), the poll showed. "As many as 62 per cent had a low regard for Prince Charles and 52 per cent had a similar view of Diana," the Herald added. The newspaper commissioned the poll to investigate the attitudes of the Scottish population towards the monarchy in general and the royal family in particular.